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1983 ANNUAL REPORT

Alaska Court System

Alaska Court System

State of Alaska

303 "K" STREET
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
99501

ARTHUR H. SNOWDEN II
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

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THE YEAR IN REVIEW — A MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

In FY 1983, the Alaska Court System has continued to evolve and adapt to the changes that Alaska is experiencing, and to the new demands that are being placed on courts nationwide.

Court systems throughout the country are studying and implementing new technology which will allow for faster case processing, and increased accuracy and efficiency in recordkeeping. The Alaska Court System is no exception. This fiscal year we have embarked on a large scale project to install automated data/word processing equipment and systems in selected courts statewide. When the equipment is fully installed and operational, we expect to have the use of a modern, efficient system which will enable us to handle all aspects of court work more competently. In the meantime, we are suffering the inevitable pains of systemic transition, many of which are related to the application of space-age technology in a state where many communities have been afforded the basic benefits of electricity only in very recent history. Under present projections, the installation of our new equipment should be completed during calendar year 1984. As an additional benefit, this new equipment will facilitate more detailed and accurate collection of court statistics.

The workload of the court continues to increase. The changing composition of the court's workload provides some insight into the concerns of Alaska's citizens. These concerns are expressed through the actions of Alaska's legislators and inevitably result in cases brought before the courts. Two recent examples of this phenomenon are domestic violence cases and guardianship cases. Until approximately two years ago, domestic violence cases (primarily intra-family disputes involving violence) did not exist. The 1980 Alaska State Legislature enacted laws which authorized "domestic violence" as a new type of injunctive action. In FY 1983, domestic violence cases make up 18% of the domestic relations caseload and approximately nine percent of the overall superior court workload. In a similar vein, legislation enacted in 1981 has resulted in dramatic increases in guardianship and sanity case filings. This fiscal year, the Alaska State Legislature substantially increased the penalties for drunk driving convictions. This change may result in a significant increase in drunk driving trials during this next fiscal year.

In recent years, courts throughout the country have been focusing on the length of time required for disputes to reach judicial resolution. The Alaska Court System is pursuing two projects in this area, in conjunction with the National Center for State Courts. The Civil and Criminal Delay Project is attempting to identify the lengths of time required for civil and criminal cases to proceed through each stage of the case to resolution. Ultimately, problem areas will be isolated and attention given to areas where time-saving procedures may be implemented. A second project, the Alaska Civil Litigation Study, utilizes the resources of in-state practitioners and judges on three supreme court task forces. The project will result in recommendations to the Alaska Supreme Court about how civil litigation may be simplified in Alaska. Both these studies will focus primarily on ways to improve and streamline court procedures. However, it should not be forgotten that the court system is only one component of the justice system, and that other components can also contribute to delays in dispute resolution. Long-term gains in these areas are most likely to result from cooperation and effort by all justice components, such as the courts, other state agencies, and the practicing bar.

Perhaps the most problematic area relating to court facilities this fiscal year has been the rapid growth of the Anchorage court, which is presently confined in a court facility already inadequate for its needs. The court system has acquired the half-block located next to the existing court facility, and has developed a design scheme which will span the two blocks in an attempt to meet court needs through the end of the century. For over two years the court system has worked with the municipality to secure design approval. If the municipality and the court system cannot agree on a design which is functionally and spatially adequate to house the state's major judicial facility, the court system will be forced to consider moving from downtown Anchorage to a midtown location.

Although Alaska's courts are grappling with many of the same problems as other American courts, the Alaska Court System is faced with many unique problems. The vast expanse of Alaska tests the efficacy of any statewide agency. The increasing cost of travel coupled with a growing public concern about increased state spending necessitates the exploration of alternatives to traditional court methods and procedures. The court system will continue to explore the possibility of less expensive alternatives to solve court problems. For example, a committee has been formed to develop guidelines for telephonic court proceedings, in order to eliminate unnecessary travel expenses by state agency personnel and private parties, whenever feasible.

We look forward to FY 1984 with optimism and with the hope that Alaska's courts will continue to serve the needs of Alaska in the years ahead.

Arthur H Snowden II

Arthur H. Snowden, II
Administrative Director

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ALASKA COURT SYSTEM FACT SHEET

(Information as of June 30, 1983)

FISCAL YEAR: July 1 - June 30

Geographical area served: 566,000 square miles

Number of judges:
- 5 supreme court justices
- 3 court of appeals judges
- 26 superior court judges
- 14 district court judges

Number of court locations:
- 13 superior and district court locations
- 42 district courts only (judge and/or magistrate)

Total number of permanent full-time court employees: 579

5 largest trial courts (by number of permanent full-time employees):

Anchorage :	202
Fairbanks :	85
Juneau :	23
Ketchikan :	18
Kenai :	15

BUDGET

FY 1983 court system annual budget: $34,349,600

Percentage increase over FY 1982 annual budget: 8.7%

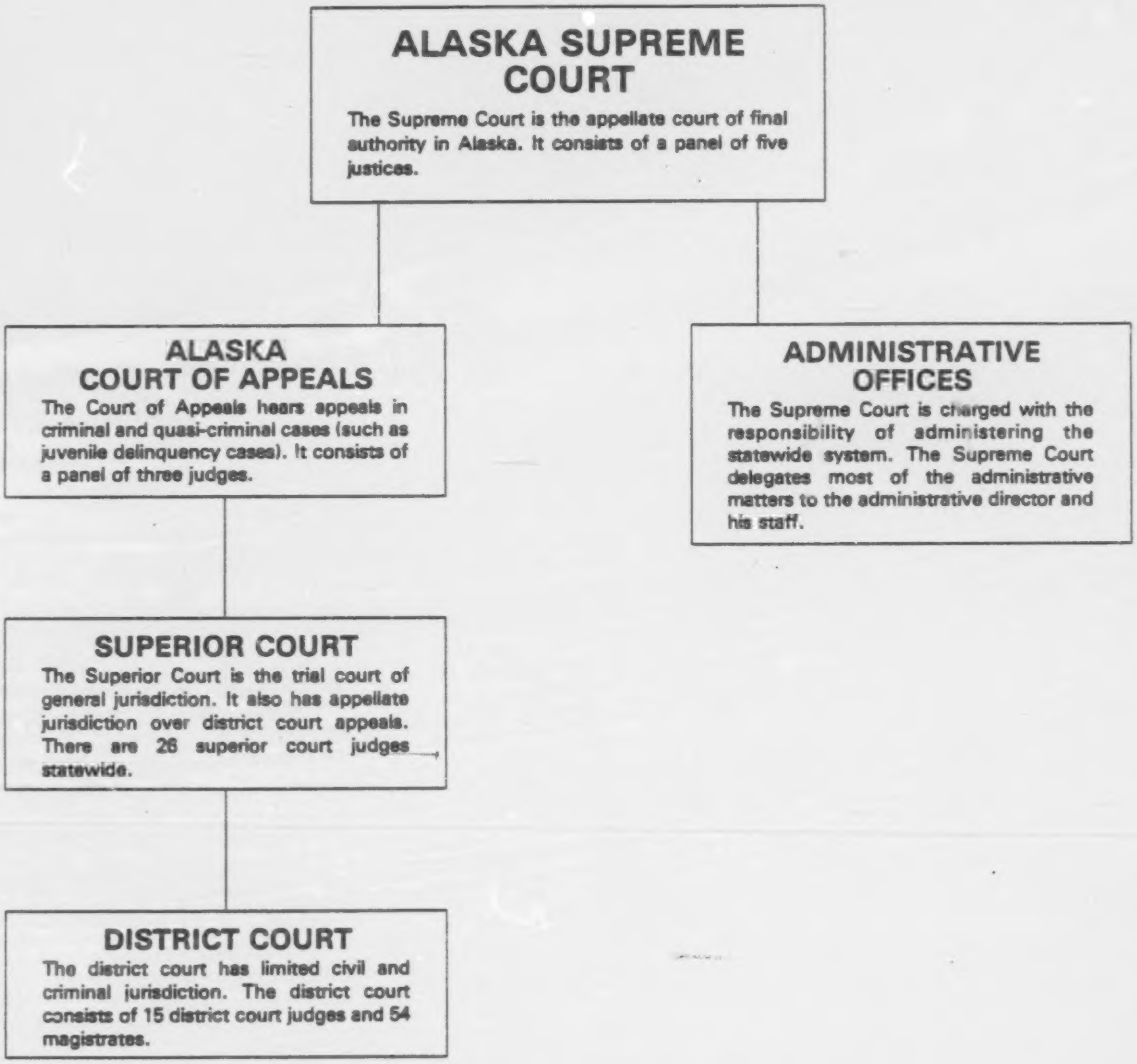
Percentage of FY 1983 annual state general fund budget: 1.7%

CASELOAD

Number of Cases Filed and Decided in FY 1983

Court	# of Cases FILED	% Change from FY 82	# of Cases DECIDED	% Change from FY 82
Supreme Court	512	+ 23%	538	+ 27%
Appeals Court	581	+ 27%	594	+ 81%
Superior Court	18,364	+ 7%	14,570	− 1%
District Court	129,482	+ 10%	127,099	+ 14%

ALASKA COURT SYSTEM ORGANIZATION



ALASKA SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court is the appellate court of final authority in Alaska. It consists of a panel of five justices.

ALASKA COURT OF APPEALS

The Court of Appeals hears appeals in criminal and quasi-criminal cases (such as juvenile delinquency cases). It consists of a panel of three judges.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

The Supreme Court is charged with the responsibility of administering the statewide system. The Supreme Court delegates most of the administrative matters to the administrative director and his staff.

SUPERIOR COURT

The Superior Court is the trial court of general jurisdiction. It also has appellate jurisdiction over district court appeals. There are 26 superior court judges statewide.

DISTRICT COURT

The district court has limited civil and criminal jurisdiction. The district court consists of 15 district court judges and 54 magistrates.

The Alaska judiciary has a unified centrally administered, and totally state funded judicial system. County and municipal governments do not maintain a separate court system.

Profile of the Alaska Court System

July 1, 1982 - June 30, 1983
Fiscal Year 1983

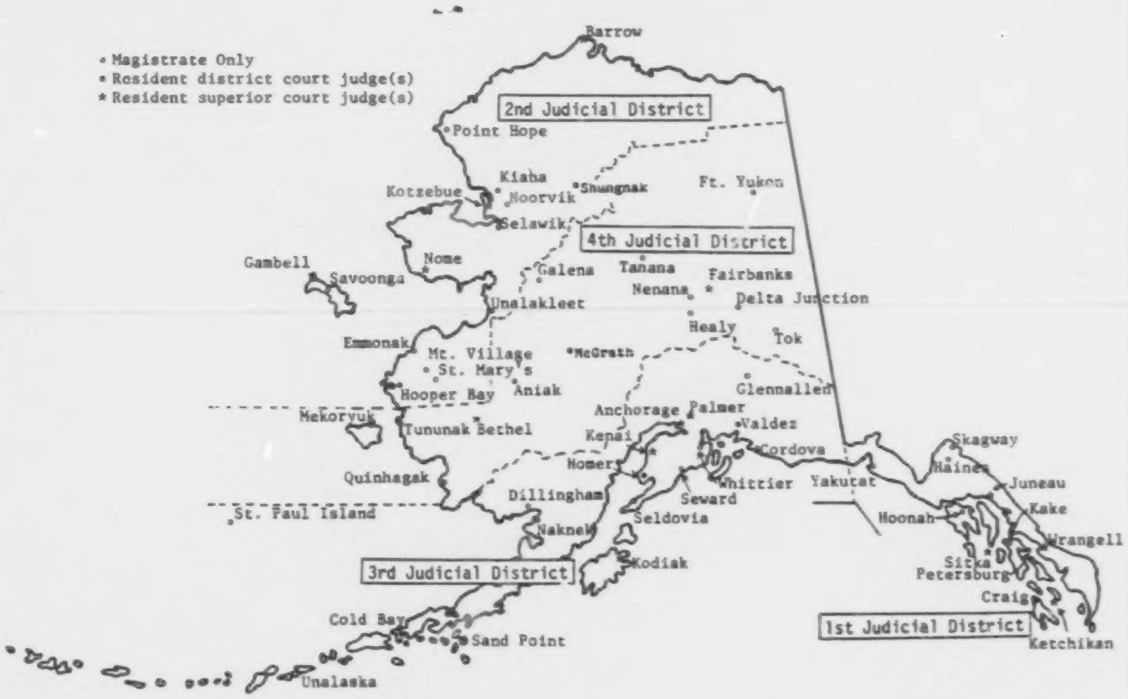
Introduction

There are four levels of court in the Alaska Court System, each with different powers, duties and responsibilities. Alaska has no city, county or borough courts.

The chief justice of the Alaska Supreme Court is the administrative head of the Alaska Court System. An administrative director is appointed by the chief justice with concurrence of the supreme court. The administrative director supervises the administration of all courts in the state.

The four levels of court in the Alaska Court System are the supreme court, the court of appeals, the superior court and the district court. The supreme court and the superior court were established in the Alaska Constitution. The district court was established by state statute in 1959. The court of appeals was established by state statute in 1980. Jurisdiction and other

ALASKA COURT LOCATIONS


• Magistrate Only
• Resident district court judge(s)
* Resident superior court judge(s)
2nd Judicial District
4th Judicial District
3rd Judicial District
1st Judicial District
Barrow
Point Hope
Kiana
Noorvik
Shungnak
Ft. Yukon
Kotzebue
Selawik
Gambell
Savoonga
Nome
Galena
Tanana
Fairbanks
Nenana
Delta Junction
Unalakleet
Healy
Tok
Emmonak
Mt. Village
St. Mary's
McGrath
Aniak
Hooper Bay
Glennallen
Mekoryuk
Tununak
Bethel
Anchorage
Palmer
Valdez
Kenai
Cordova
Homer
Skagway
Haines
Juneau
Quinhagak
Whittier
Seward
Yakutat
Dillingham
Seldovia
Hoonah
Kake
St. Paul Island
Naknek
Wrangell
Sitka
Petersburg
Kodiak
Craig
Ketchikan
Cold Bay
Sand Point
Unalaska

6/83

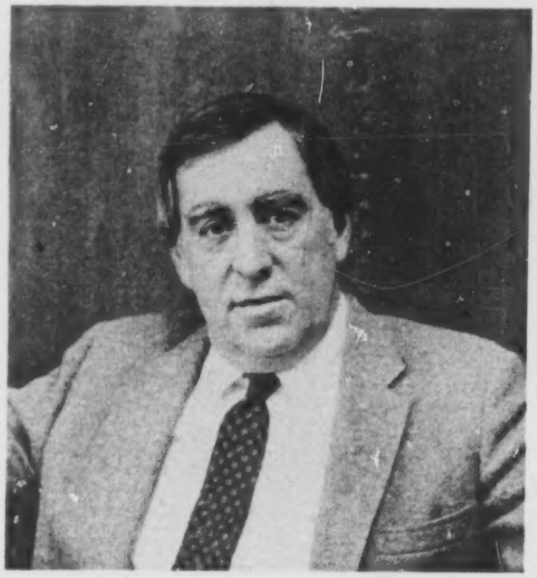
areas of judicial responsibility for each level of court are set out in Title 22 of the Alaska Statutes. Rules governing the administration of all courts as well as the rules of practice and procedure for civil and criminal cases are promulgated by the supreme court.

The Supreme Court

The Alaska Supreme Court is the highest level of state court in Alaska. The supreme court is comprised of the chief justice and four associate justices.

The chief justice is selected from among the justices by a majority vote. He holds that office for three years and may not serve consecutive terms.

During FY 1983,[1] the Honorable Edmond W. Burke continued as chief justice of the Alaska Supreme Court. Chief Justice Burke's term began October 1, 1981; it will expire on September 30, 1984. Chief Justice Burke has served for nine years on the Alaska Supreme Court. He resides in Anchorage.



Chief Justice Edmond W. Burke

Justice Jay A. Rabinowitz is the senior member of the current court, having served for 19 years. Justice Rabinowitz resides in Fairbanks.

Justice Jay A. Rabinowitz

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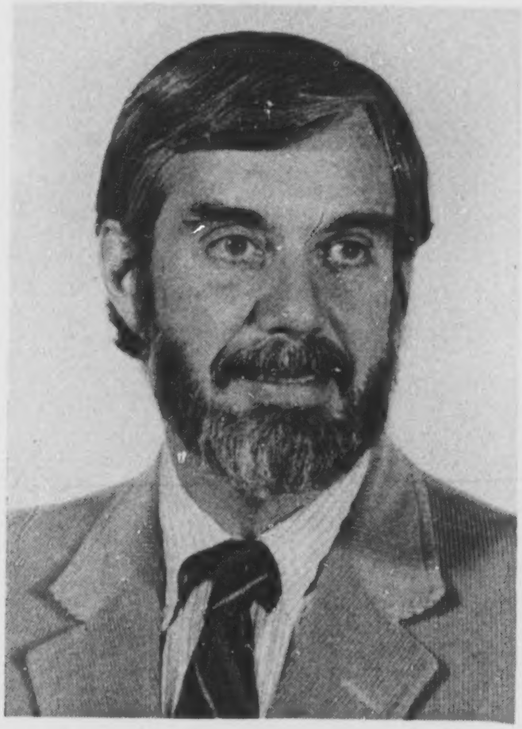
[1] The court system's fiscal year is July 1 - June 30. FY 1983 is July 1, 1982 - June 30, 1983.

Justice Warren Matthews

Justice Warren Matthews, who resides in Anchorage, has been on the supreme court for seven years.

Justice Allen Compton has been a member of the supreme court for three years. When he was appointed to the supreme court in 1980 he resided in Juneau. Hnwever, in September 1983, he moved to Anchorage.



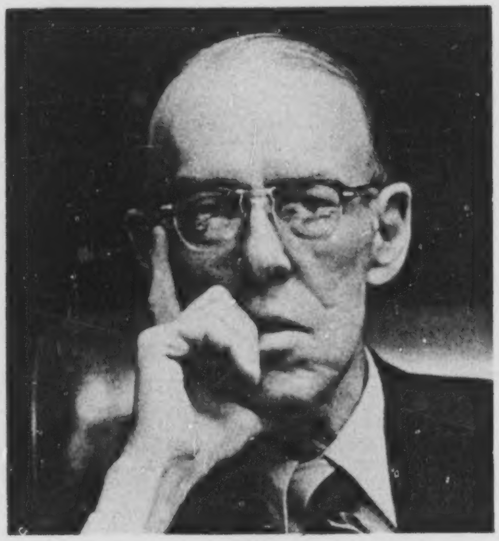
Justice Allen T. Compton

Justice Roger G. Connor

Justice Roger G. Connor retired on May 1, 1983, after 15 years of service on the supreme court. During his tenure he participated in the disposition of some 5,000 appeals and petitions for review. He authored 430 majority opinions and approximately 70 concurring and dissenting opinions. On July 10, 1983, Superior Court Judge Daniel A. Moore, Jr. of Anchorage was appointed by

Governor Bill Sheffield to replace Justice Connor.

Senior Justice John H. Dimond, who retired in 1971, was again recalled for full-time service from January - June 1983. Justice Dimond, who was a member of the original supreme court, is scheduled to return to full-time service on the court for six months every year.



Senior Justice John H. Dimond

The supreme court hears cases on appeal from every location in the state. An appeal may be taken to the supreme court from a final judgment (that is, a judgment which substantially ends the court case) entered by the superior court in any civil action or proceeding. In criminal actions (and in certain quasi-criminal matters, like juvenile delinquency cases), the supreme court has the discretion to accept or deny litigants' requests that it review decisions made by the court of appeals. The supreme court may also take jurisdiction of a case pending before the court of appeals if the court of appeals certifies that the case involves a significant question of constitutional law or an issue of substantial public interest.

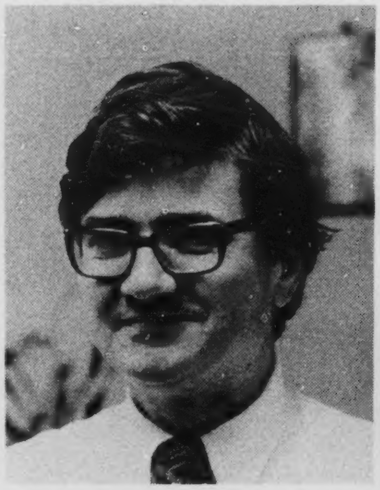
The Alaska Constitution grants the supreme court power to establish rules governing the administration of all courts in the state and rules governing practice and procedure in civil and criminal cases. The supreme court has also adopted other rules such as rules governing the practice of law in the State of Alaska, rules governing practice and procedure in children's matters, rules of probate procedure and rules of appellate procedure. The Alaska Legislature may change rules governing practice and procedure by an act expressing its intent to do so and passed by a two-thirds majority of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The supreme court meets approximately monthly to hear arguments and to confer on pending judicial and administrative matters. Arguments are heard by the five justices as a panel throughout the year in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau and occasionally in Ketchikan and Kenai. The supreme court will generally hear argument in the city where the case was heard in the trial court. In FY 1983 61% of the cases heard originated in Anchorage, 23% in Fairbanks, nine percent in southeastern Alaska, and seven percent in other areas of the state. Following argument or submission of the case on the basis of briefs without argument, the supreme court will decide the case, write an opinion and initiate its publication in the Pacific Reporter, the official regional reporter for the northwestern states.

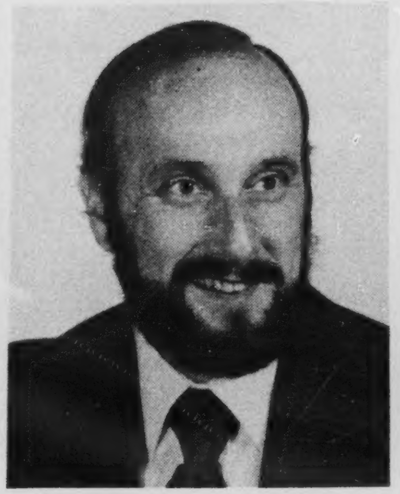
The clerk's office of the appellate court, which includes the supreme court and the court of appeals, is located in Anchorage. Robert Bacon has been the clerk of the appellate court since July 1, 1980. The clerk is required to be an attorney, preferably with some appellate experience. Responsibilities of the clerk include monitoring the caseflow through the supreme court and the court of appeals, and making recommendations for improvements in appellate procedure. The clerk is also responsible for all case filing and calendaring, publishing opinions and related tasks. Deputy clerks are located in Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Clerk's Office of the Appellate Courts

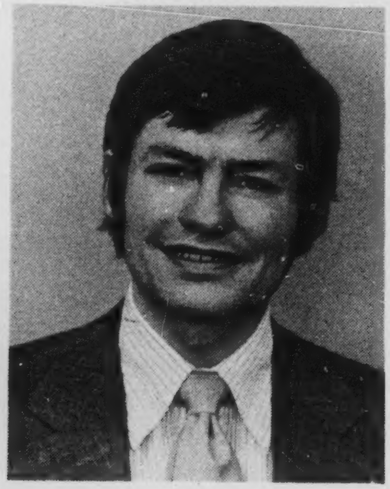
The Court of Appeals



Judge James Singleton



Chief Judge Alex Bryner

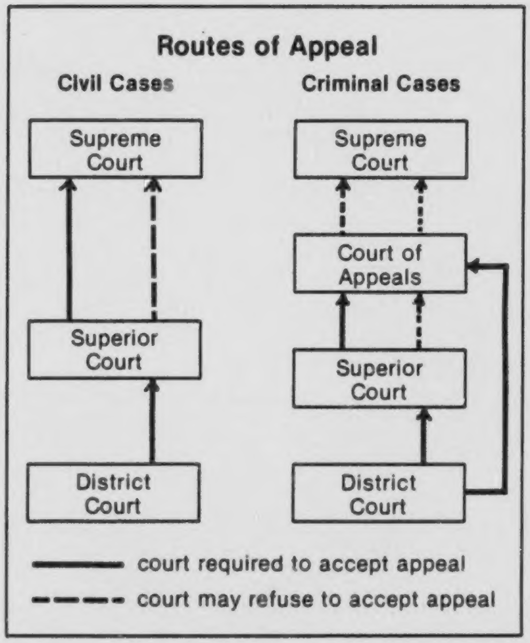


Judge Robert Coats

The court of appeals is a three judge panel created by the Alaska Legislature in 1980. All three judges appointed to the court in 1980 remain on the court. They all reside in Anchorage where the court of appeals regularly meets. The court of appeals rarely travels to other locations.

The court of appeals has the authority to hear appeals from judgments in criminal cases and certain other quasi-criminal cases in which a minor is accused of committing a crime (juvenile delinquency cases), cases in which prisoners are challenging the legality of their confinement (habeas corpus matters), and cases involving probation and parole decisions.

Criminal appeals from the district court can be taken to the superior court or to the court of appeals, at the option of the defendant. A defendant who appeals his case from district court to superior court can ask the court of appeals to review the resulting decision of the superior court, but the court of appeals may, in its discretion, refuse to hear the appeal.


Routes of Appeal
Civil Cases
Criminal Cases
Supreme Court
Superior Court
District Court
Supreme Court
Court of Appeals
Superior Court
District Court
court required to accept appeal
court may refuse to accept appeal

The Superior Court

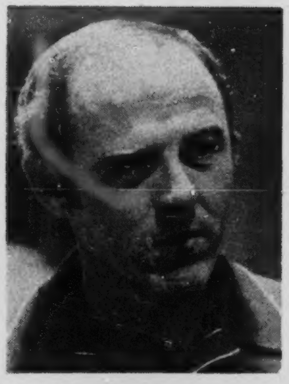
The superior court is the trial court of general jurisdiction with original jurisdiction in all civil and criminal matters. The superior court serves as an appellate court for appeals from the district court. Appeals to the superior court from final judgments from the district court are a matter of right. The superior court has the exclusive power to hear all domestic relations matters (for example, divorces and dissolution of marriage cases), cases involving children who have committed crimes or who are abused or neglected, cases involving the property of dead persons or incompetent persons, and cases involving the involuntary commitments of persons to institutions for the mentally ill.

At the end of FY 1983, there were 26 superior court judges serving the State of Alaska. On October 28, 1982 Governor Hammond appointed Anchorage District Court Judge Beverly Cutler to the newly-created superior court seat in Palmer. Judge Cutler became the first woman to fill a superior court judgeship in Alaska. Also on October 28, Michael Jeffery, an attorney with Alaska Legal Services, was appointed to the new superior court seat in Barrow. On November 12, 1982, Henry C. Keene, Jr. was chosen by Governor Hammond to fill a new superior court seat in Wrangell/Petersburg. Judge Keene was formerly a district court judge in Ketchikan. The 1983 session of the legislature created an additional superior court judgeship to be located at Valdez. However, at the end of FY 1983, this position remained vacant.

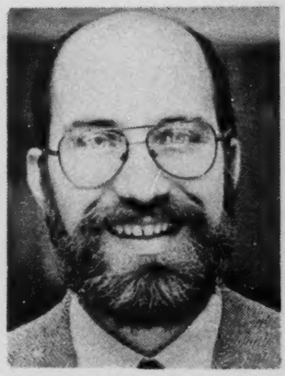
The State of Alaska is divided into four judicial districts. The boundaries of the districts are defined by state statute. The judicial districts define the boundaries for judicial retention elections (at which voters of the state indicate their approval or rejection of judges and justices). Also, the day-to-day operation of the trial courts (the district and superior courts) in each district is supervised by a presiding judge for each district.

The chief justice designates a superior court judge from each of Alaska's four judicial districts to serve as presiding judge for that district for a term of one calendar year. The presiding judge, in addition to his regular judicial duties, is responsible for the administration of the trial courts within his district, including the assignment of cases, the supervision of court personnel, the efficient handling of court business and the appointment of the magistrates.

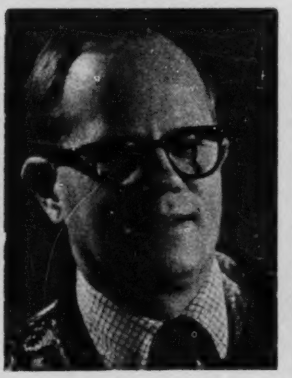
Superior Court Judges of the First Judicial District



Presiding Judge
Thomas E. Schulz
Appointed 1974
Ketchikan



Walter Carpeneti
Appointed 1981
Juneau

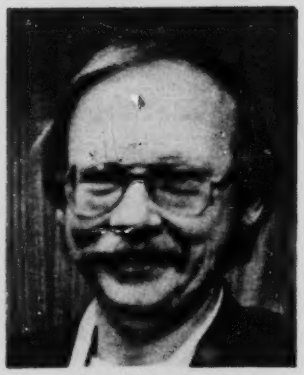


Duane Craske
Appointed 1976
Sitka

Henry C. Keene, Jr.
Appointed 1982
Wrangell/Petersburg

Roger Pegues
Appointed 1981
Juneau

Superior Court Judges of the Second Judicial District



Presiding Judge
Charles Tunley
Appointed 1980
Nome

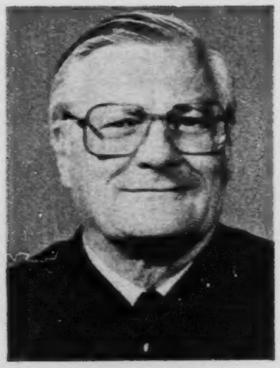
Christopher Cooke
Appointed 1976
Bethel

Michael Jeffery
Appointed 1982
Barrow

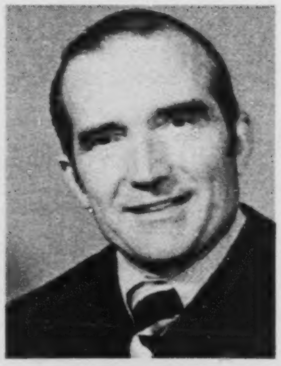
Paul Jones
Appointed 1980
Kotzebue

Superior Court Judges of the Third Judicial District

Presiding Judge
Mark Rowland
Appointed 1977
Anchorage



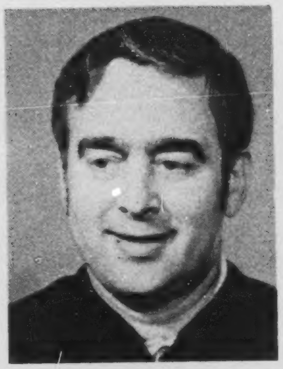
S. J. Buckalew Jr.
Appointed 1973
Anchorage



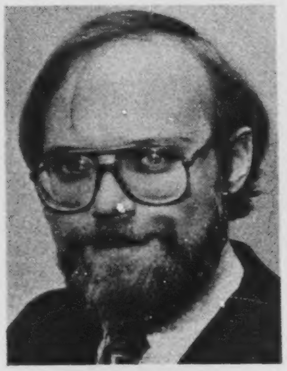
Victor Carlson
Appointed 1970
Anchorage

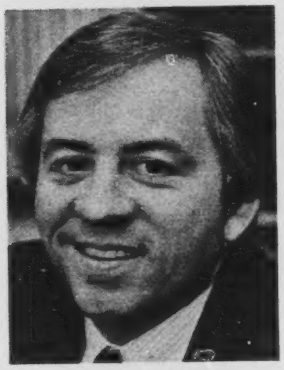
Karl Johnstone
Appointed 1979
Anchorage

Ralph Moody
Appointed 1962
Anchorage


Daniel Moore
Appointed 1980
Anchorage

J. Justice Ripley
Appointed 1975
Anchorage


Douglas Serdahely
Appointed 1980
Anchorage


Brian Shortell
Appointed 1980
Anchorage

Milton Souter
Appointed 1978
Anchorage

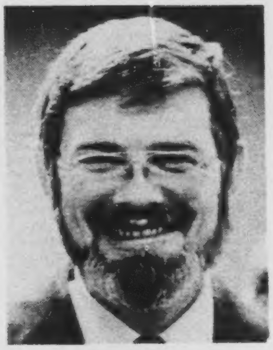
Roy Madsen
Appointed 1975
Kodiak

Beverly Cutler
Appointed 1982
Palmer

Charles Cranston
Appointed 1981
Kenai

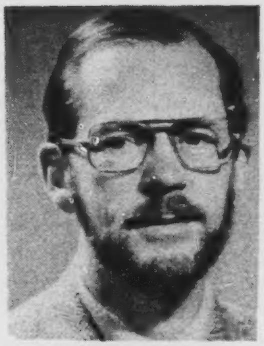
Superior Court Judges of the Fourth Judicial District

Presiding Judge
Gerald Van Hoomissen
Appointed 1970
Fairbanks

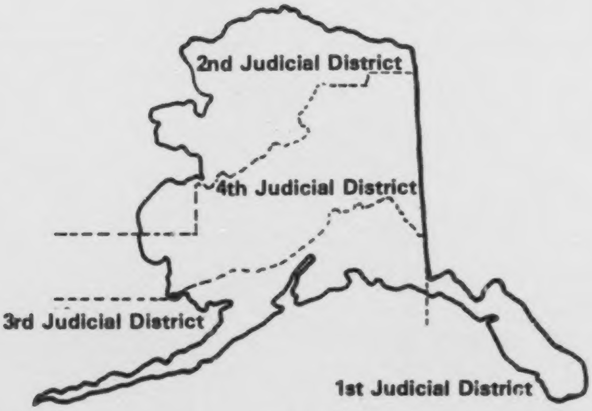


James Blair
Appointed 1975
Fairbanks

Jay Hodges
Appointed 1976
Fairbanks



Warren Taylor
Appointed 1965
Fairbanks


2nd Judicial District
4th Judicial District
3rd Judicial District
1st Judicial District

The District Court

The Alaska Constitution provides that the legislature shall establish such lower or inferior courts as may be necessary. In 1959, the legislature created a district court for each judicial district, and granted to the supreme court the power to increase or decrease the number of district court judges within each judicial district. As of June 30, 1983, there were 14 district court judges in Alaska (plus one acting district court judge).

In criminal matters, a district court judge has jurisdiction over all state misdemeanor violations (minor criminal offenses) and violations of city and borough ordinances. He/she may issue arrest warrants and search warrants, and the district court judge acts as examining magistrate in arraignments in criminal proceedings, which must occur within 24 hours after arrest. A district court judge also handles first appearances and preliminary hearings in felony cases.

A district court judge also performs such other tasks as issuing absentee ballots in some areas of the state and recording vital statistics. The judge also serves as coroner, holds inquests and acts as a temporary caretaker of the property of deceased persons.

In civil matters the district court judge may hear cases for recovery of money or damages not exceeding $10,000 and for recovery of specific personal property when the value claimed does not exceed $10,000. In motor vehicle accident cases, the civil jurisdiction in district court is $15,000. A district court judge may handle small claims actions up to $2,000, and may temporarily detain juveniles in emergency situations. The criminal and civil jurisdiction of the district court extends over the whole of the state.

Three new district court judges were appointed to the bench in FY 1983. Governor Bill Sheffield appointed Anchorage attorneys Natalie Finn and William Fuld to the Anchorage district court bench, and attorney George L. Gucker to the Ketchikan district court bench. Judges Finn and Fuld filled vacancies created by the nonretention of Judges Joseph Brewer and Virgil Vochaska by the voters in the November 1982 general election. Judge Gucker replaced Judge Henry C. Keene, Jr. who was appointed to the new superior court seat in Wrangell/Petersburg in November 1982. Judge Robin Taylor left the district court bench when the district court judgeship at Wrangell was eliminated and replaced by a superior court seat in Wrangell/Petersburg.

District Court Judges of the First Judicial District

George Gucker
Appointed 1983
Ketchikan

Gerald Williams
Appointed 1975
Juneau

District Court Judges of the Third Judicial District

Glen Anderson
Appointed 1978
Anchorage

Elaine Andrews
Appointed 1981
Anchorage

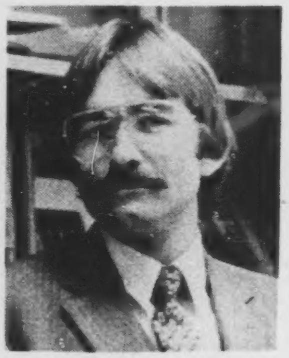
Natalie Finn
Appointed 1983
Anchorage

William Fuld
Appointed 1983
Anchorage

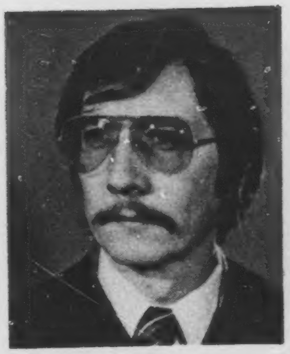
John Mason
Appointed 1970
Anchorage

Warren Tucker
Appointed 1969
Anchorage

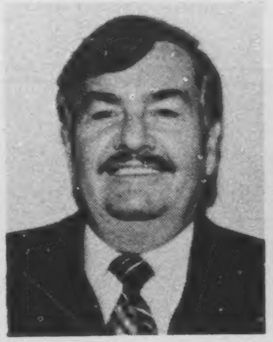
James Hornaday
Appointed 1976
Homer


John Bosshard, III
Appointed 1976
Valdez

District Court Judges of the Fourth Judicial District


Stephen Cline
Appointed 1978
Fairbanks

Hugh Connelly
Appointed 1960
Fairbanks


H. E. Crutchfield
Appointed 1980
Fairbanks

Jane Kauvar
Appointed 1981
Fairbanks

In the smaller, generally rural areas of the state, where the services of a full-time district court judge are not required, magistrates preside over some district court matters. Magistrates also serve in most metropolitan areas to handle routine matters and ease the workload of the district court. As of June 30, 1983, there were 40 court locations in Alaska in which a magistrate was the highest ranking judicial officer.

A magistrate is not required to be a lawyer. The magistrate is a judicial officer of the district court whose authority is more limited than the authority of a district court judge. In small claims cases, the magistrate may award damages up to $2,000 (in formal cases, $1,000). A magistrate may also issue summonses, writs of habeas corpus (that is, challenges to the legality of a person's confinement in a jail or other restricted environment) and marriage licenses; enforce orders and judgments of the superior court; perform the duties of coroner (including inquests) and notary public; record vital statistics such as births, deaths, and marriages; and issue absentee ballots. He/she also has emergency authority in children's matters.

In criminal matters, the magistrate may give judgment of conviction upon a plea of guilty to any state misdemeanor. He/she may hear, hold a trial and enter judgment in state misdemeanors if the defendant agrees in writing to be tried by the magistrate. He/she may also hear trials of municipal ordinance violations and state traffic infractions without consent of the accused and may impose sentence in such cases. A magistrate may preside over felony preliminary examinations, which are hearings in felony cases, to determine whether or not there is enough evidence against the person charged to justify the case continuing to trial. Finally, he/she may issue warrants of arrest, summonses and search warrants.

Photo by Chaplin's Phototgraphy

STATEWIDE MAGISTRATE TRAINING CONFERENCE
Anchorage, March 21-25, 1983

Seated (first two rows, left to right: Bob Martin, Magistrate Training Assistant; Kris Carlisle, First District Area Court Administrator; Abner Gologergen, Savoonga; Linda Hartshorn, Wrangell; Superior Court Judge Chris Cooke; Terry Gallagher, Yakutat; Bill Cheney, Kake; Brigitte McBride, Kodiak; Elizabeth Dennis, Craig; District Court Judge John Bosshard, III; Susan Thomsen, Ketchikan; Craig McMahon, Aniak; Carl Heinmiller, Haines; Skip Slater, Fairbanks; Paul Verhagen, Tanana; Dale Curda, Bethel; Jim Jackson, Galena; District Court Judge Steve Cline; Charlie Shawback, Naknek; George Peck, Seward; Peter Ashman, Dillingham; Rick Redeker, Petersburg; Jess Nicholas, Kenai; Matt Andrews, St. Marys; Sharon Smyth, Ft. Yukon.

Standing (back two rows, left to right): Steven Lisbourne, Point Hope; Leonard Apangalook, Gambell; Myrtle Harvey, Noorvik; Lowell Anagick, Unalakleet; Flora Douglas, Shungnak; Billy Atseriak, Quinhagak; John Howard, Angoon; Jeanne Cross, Barrow; Dick Lincoln, Tununak; Rick Siangco, Juneau; Barbara Macfarlane, Healy/Nenana; Anita Greist, Selawik; Stephanie Cole, Deputy Director for Services; Janet Henry, Kiana; Sheldon Sprecker, Glennallen; Christine Kashevarof, Seldovia; Carole Baekey, Judicial Education Coordinator; Susan Miller, Special Projects; George Dozier, Unalaska; Anna Creasey, Homer; Linda Harding, Delta Junction; Marilyn Hanson, Sitka; Maxine Savland, Hoonah; Conner Thomas, Nome; Jeneane Moore, Magistrate Services; Iris Lathrop, Tok; Marge Lori, Field Auditor; Robert Sinkey, Kotzebue; Mary Wentworth, Cordova; Alice Smith, Mekoryuk; Karl Heiker, Cold Bay; Phyllis Johnson, Valdez; Willie Naneng, Hooper Bay; Superior Court Judge Duane Craske; Jean Worley, Skagway.

Statewide Court Administration

Statewide court administration is the responsibility of the chief justice of the supreme court. By court rule, this responsibility is delegated to the administrative director of the courts subject to general guidelines set forth by the supreme court.

The Judicial Appointment Process

Supreme court justices and judges of the court of appeals, superior court and district court are appointed by the governor of the State of Alaska from lists of qualified candidates submitted to the governor by the Alaska Judicial Council. All appointments are made by the governor within 45 days of receipt of these nominations.

To be eligible for appointment to the supreme court, a person must be a citizen of the United States and a resident of Alaska for five years prior to appointment. A justice must be licensed to practice law in the state at the time of appointment and have engaged in the active practice of law for eight years.

A court of appeals judge must be a citizen of the United States, a resident of the state for five years immediately preceding his/her appointment, have been engaged for not less than eight years immediately preceding his/her appointment in the active practice of law, and at the time of appointment be licensed to practice law in the state.

The qualifications of a judge of the superior court are the same as for a supreme court justice, except that only five years of active practice are necessary.

A district court judge must be 21 years of age, a citizen of the United States, a resident of the state for at least five years, and (1) be licensed to practice law in Alaska and have been engaged in the active practice of law for not less than three years immediately preceding his/her appointment or (2) have served for at least seven years as a magistrate in the state, and have graduated from an accredited law school.

Magistrates are not appointed by the governor nor are their qualifications reviewed by the Alaska Judicial Council. Their appointments are made for an indefinite period by the presiding superior court judge of the judicial district in which they will serve. Each magistrate serves at the pleasure of the presiding superior court judge of his/her judicial district.

A magistrate does not have to be a lawyer. The qualifications of a magistrate are that the individual be 21 years old, a United States citizen, and a citizen of Alaska for six months prior to appointment.

Judicial Retention Elections

Each supreme court justice and each judge of the court of appeals is subject to approval or rejection by a majority of the voters of the state on a nonpartisan ballot at the first general election held more than three years after appointment. Thereafter, each justice must participate in a retention election every ten years; each court of appeals judge must participate every eight years.

Each superior court judge is subject to approval or rejection by the voters of his/her judicial district at the first general election held more than three years after his/her appointment. Thereafter, he/she is subject to approval or rejection every sixth year. Each district court judge must also run in a retention election in his/her judicial district, at the first general election held more than one year after his/her appointment and in a like manner every fourth year thereafter.

State laws which require judges to participate in retention elections do not apply to magistrates.

In November 1982, the following 14 judges and justices participated in retention elections: Justice Roger Connor, Superior Court Judges Karl Johnstone, S. J. Buckalew, and Milton Souter, and District Court Judges Joseph Brewer, Virgil Vochaska, Elaine Andrews, Hugh Connelly, H. E. Crutchfield, Beverly Cutler, James Hornaday, Jane Kauvar, Henry C. Keene and Warren Tucker. Two Anchorage district court judges, Joseph Brewer and Virgil Vochaska, were rejected by the voters. All other members of the judiciary were approved.

Budget and Fiscal Affairs

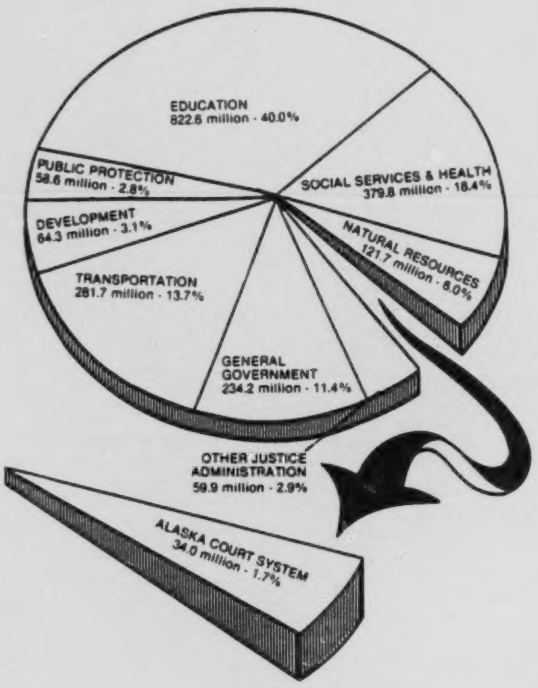
The Alaska Legislature annually appropriates from the state general fund all funds for operating the Alaska Court System. A statewide budget for all trial courts, the appellate courts and court administration is prepared centrally by the administrative office. Revenues generated by the courts are deposited in the state general fund, except those originating out of municipal ordinance violations, which are returned to the respective municipalities.

The judicial budget has grown steadily for the past several years at a rate of six to twelve percent per year. These increases have been primarily a result of inflation, with a minimal increase for additional resources. Statewide, court caseloads have generally increased at a steady but moderate pace and the court system has been able to absorb most of the additional workload.

The court system operating budget accounts for approximately 1.7% of the total state general fund budget. The actual expenditures incurred by the court system during fiscal year 1981 were $26,518,200; fiscal year 1982, $30,009,400; and fiscal year 1983, $34,349,600.

STATE OF ALASKA FISCAL YEAR 1983

OPERATING BUDGET GENERAL FUND



Total General Fund Budget = 2,056.8 million

The budget process for the court system begins with the submission of budget requests by the various trial courts to the administrative office. These requests are reviewed with each district and are modified to fit into an overall state budget plan. Following legislative review and appropriation, the budget is then allocated to the various judicial districts, the appellate courts and the administrative office. The appropriation covers all costs of the judicial branch in the state including judges' salaries, facility rent, clerks' offices and administrative support.

Personnel costs, at the 1983 level of $25,264,100, represent approximately 74% of the

STATEWIDE BUDGET FOR ALASKA COURT SYSTEM - FISCAL YEAR 1983

Operating Budget Element	FY 83 Expenditures (thousands)	Positions		
		Judges/ Justices	Magistrates	Support Personnel
Appellate Courts	$3,406.1	8		42
Trial Courts:				
1st District	3,596.9	7	11	42
2nd District	1,981.9	3	17	15
3rd District	14,416.8	22	14	210
4th District	6,806.1	9	14	78
Administration	4,141.8			56
Total	$34,349.6	49	56	443

total operating budget. Expenses for rent, maintenance and insurance on court facilities in 57 locations across the state amounted to $928,400. Jury expenses amounted to $1,016,600 and attorney fees of $1,693,000 were paid. (Attorneys are contracted to serve as guardians ad litem in children's cases and to represent indigent defendants in cases where conflicts of interest exist within the Public Defender Agency). Due to the remote nature of many court locations and the distances separating various courts, approximately $914,400 was spent for travel expenses, including juror travel and per diem. Other operating expenses of the court, including commodities, phones, postage, and equipment rental, make up approximately $4,533,100 of the annual expense of the court.

The court system annually collects three to four million dollars in revenues for deposit in the state general fund. In fiscal year 1983, the revenue generated from fines and forfeitures amounted to $2,290,000; civil case filing fees ($50.00 superior court, $25.00 district court, $5.00 small claims) $418,600; clerical fees (notary, transcript, copies) and other miscellaneous receipts, $480,000.

Judicial Education

All judges and magistrates in the Alaska trial courts receive formal training conducted either within the state or at training sessions sponsored by agencies outside of Alaska. Most outside training is conducted by the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada. Between July 1, 1982 and June 30, 1983, the following judges attended training sessions at the National College: Elaine Andrews (Anchorage), John Bosshard (Valdez), Victor J. Carlson (Anchorage), Walter Carpeneti (Juneau), Charles Cranston (Kenai), Charles Tunley (Nome), Gerald Van Hoomissen (Fairbanks), Beverly Cutler (Palmer), James Hornaday (Homer) and Michael Jeffery (Barrow).

The following magistrates attended a course at the National Judicial College or an ABA course between July 1, 1982 and June 30, 1983: Linda S. Harding (Delta Junction), Elizabeth Dennis (Craig), Iris Lathrop (Tok), Robert Sinkey (Kotzebue), Maxine Savland (Hoonah) and Marilyn Hanson (Sitka).

Judicial training in Alaska takes several different forms. There is a statewide judicial conference each year for justices and district and superior court judges which includes training in specific areas of court procedures or operations; judges and magistrates are eligible for attendance at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada; all magistrates attend at least one magistrate training conference per year; training judges and staff of the administrative office regularly visit with magistrates in their own court locations for on-site training.

The 1983 Alaska Judicial Conference was held in Fairbanks on June 6 - 8, 1983. A program on "Simplifying Civil Litigation" was presented by the National Center for State Courts.

Three in-state magistrate training conferences were conducted between July 1, 1982 and June 30, 1983. A fourth district magistrate training conference was held October 19 - 22, 1982, in Fairbanks. An acting magistrate training conference was held November 13 - 17, 1982, in Anchorage. A statewide magistrate training conference was held March 21 - 25, 1983, in Anchorage.

Alaska Judicial Council

The Alaska Judicial Council, which operates independently of the court system, has been created by the state constitution to perform two primary functions: (1) to solicit, screen and nominate applicants for gubernatorial appointment to vacant judgeship positions and (2) to conduct studies for the improvement in the administration of justice and make recommendations to the legislature and the supreme court. The council is comprised of the chief justice, who serves as chairman and ex officio member; three attorney members appointed by the board of governors of the Alaska Bar Association; and three non-attorney members appointed by the governor, and subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the legislature in joint session. These six members serve for six year terms.

The judicial council, which must report to the legislature and the supreme court at least once every two years, is assisted by a full-time executive director and his support staff. For more information regarding the functions of the Alaska Judicial Council, call (907) 279-2526.

Commission on Judicial Conduct

The Commission on Judicial Conduct, created by the state constitution, operates independently of the court system. In November 1982, the voters of Alaska adopted a constitutional amendment which changed the composition and name of the commission (formerly the Commission on Judicial Qualifications).

The commission now consists of nine members: three state court judges or justices, three lawyers with at least 10 years experience in the practice of law in Alaska, and three persons who are not lawyers or judges. The commission investigates complaints against state judges and justices. The commission has the power to reprimand a justice or judge either publicly or privately. The commission may also refer matters to the supreme court with a recommendation that a judge be suspended, removed or retired from office or publicly or privately censured by the supreme court.

In calendar year 1982, the commission received 86 complaints, 33 of which were still unresolved at the end of 1982. In calendar year 1982, the commission did not issue any private or public reprimands, nor did it refer any matters to the supreme court for proposed disciplinary action.

For more information regarding the Commission on Judicial Conduct, call (907) 264-0528.

Appellate Courts

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITY OF THE APPELLATE COURTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1983

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Report on the Activity of the Appellate Courts For Fiscal Year 1983

Prepared by Robert D. Bacon
Clerk of the Appellate Courts

Introduction

The number of matters disposed of by the Alaska Supreme Court and Court of Appeals increased significantly during the past fiscal year. The court of appeals, in its third year of operation, began successfully to use techniques for the expeditious disposition of misdemeanor and sentence appeals in volume. The supreme court, fully freed of obligatory criminal jurisdiction, began to make inroads into its backlog of civil appeals.

Much remains to be done. In particular, the length of time that civil and felony appeals remain under advisement between submission and decision is far higher than in most other courts around the nation. And numerous factors, described more fully below, suggest that the number of criminal appeals will continue to grow rapidly.

This report describes the business of the Alaska Supreme Court and the Alaska Court of Appeals for the fiscal year July 1, 1982 through June 30, 1983.

Supreme Court

Filings

A total of 509 cases was filed or reinstated[1] in the Alaska Supreme Court during FY 1983, compared to 409 during FY 1982.

Civil appeals are the only component of this total which consists of cases which the court must decide on the merits. There were 271 of them filed in FY 1983, compared to 257 the previous year. This number has fluctuated within a fairly narrow range since 1977, with a low of 251 and a high of 305. Table I, located at the end of this report, provides a historical overview of supreme court filings/dispositions, published opinions and pending cases since 1976.

As the court of appeals decided more cases, more petitions for hearing were filed with the supreme court (see Note to Tables for clarification of the category "petitions"). When added to the petitions for review (seeking review of interlocutory orders in civil actions in the superior court), this yielded a total of 238 discretionary-type matters filed in the supreme court, compared to 152 the year before. The majority of petitions for review and hearing are denied by the court, without opinion or other explanation and without decision of the merits of the issues sought to be raised.

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[1] Hereafter, all reference to "filings" include both new filings and reinstatements of cases previously closed. There were 505 new filings and 4 cases reinstated.

Of the 238, 113 were petitions for review and the two other small categories of petitions compared to 104 the year before. From 1977 through 1980, there were considerably more, since the supreme court in those years handled interlocutory petitions in criminal as well as civil cases.

The 106 petition for hearing filings in criminal-type categories compares with only 34 during FY 1982. This increase corresponds closely to the increase in cases decided on the merits by the court of appeals, the pool from which these filings are drawn.

Dispositions

The supreme court disposed of 538 matters during FY 1983: 241 on the merits, 179 petition denials, and 118 cases dismissed (see Table II). Most dismissals do not require any judicial action. Comparable figures for the previous year were a total of 422, consisting of 209 on the merits, 98 petition denials, and 115 dismissals. The all-time high was in 1979, prior to the organization of the court of appeals, when the court disposed of 634 cases, including 338 on the merits.

The number of civil appeal dispositions grew to an all-time high of 307, compared to 273 in FY 1982 and 264 in FY 1981. Once the supreme court was relieved of criminal appeals by right, its civil appeal dispositions have risen somewhat, but not proportionally to the relief provided by the loss of obligatory criminal jurisdiction.

During FY 1983, the court issued 172 published opinions, up from 140 the previous year but down from 263 in FY 1981, when it was still disposing of a large number of obligatory criminal appeals. The four justices who were in regular active service for the full year wrote an average of 35 opinions each. In addition, Justice Roger G. Connor wrote 26 prior to his retirement and Senior Justice John H. Dimond and other pro tempore justices wrote a total of 7. These numbers do not include separate concurrences and dissents. Justice Dimond, an original member of the Alaska Supreme Court, retired in 1971 but is recalled annually for at least six months' pro tempore service.

The number of opinions is not the same as the number of cases decided by opinion, for two reasons. When cross-appeals are taken or cases consolidated for decision, a single opinion is ordinarily written disposing of more than one case filing. And pursuant to Appellate Rules 507 and 512, a case is not closed until any petition for rehearing has been disposed of and, in any event, not until ten days after the opinion has been issued. Therefore, opinions published late in one year produce case dispositions the following year. The same is true of MO&Js.

There were 21 brief, unpublished memorandum opinion and judgments (MO&Js) issued, the same number as the year before. Comparing these numbers to the numbers of published opinions noted above yields a publication percentage of 89 percent for the current year and 87 percent for FY 1982.

In addition to Justice Dimond's service, on 80 occasions the chief justice designated a court of appeals or superior court judge to serve as a supreme court justice pro tempore when one or more of the regular justices was unavailable. Twenty-two different judges received at least one such pro tempore assignment to the supreme court. The number of such assignments was much higher than in the year before due to Justice Connor's injury and subsequent retirement.

Pending Caseload

As shown in Table III, there were 386 pending cases in the supreme court on June 30, 1983, compared with 412 a year earlier. The number of pending civil appeals declined substantially, from 353 to 316, reflecting the record number of civil appeal dispositions.

The number of civil appeals submitted to the court for decision but not yet decided -- the cases awaiting judicial action, not waiting for records, briefs of counsel, or a turn on the oral argument calendar -- declined substantially from 156 on both June 30, 1982 and June 30, 1981, to 117 on June 30, 1983. Of these 117, 72 were the subject of draft opinions circulating among the members of the court, while 45 were still awaiting a first draft from the assigned justice.

Time Required for Disposition of Cases

The time required for the disposition of appeals in the supreme court continued to decline in FY 1983. The average time from notice of appeal to closing of a civil appeal was 593 days for cases closed in FY 1983 (see Table IV), compared to 623 days in FY 1982 and 657 in 1980-81. This average of 593 days is still in excess of the 325 days prescribed by the appellate rules and the internal procedures of the court.

The average length of time a civil appeal was under advisement, from submission to decision, fell to 244 days from 273 days in FY 1982 and 290 in FY 1981. However, during 1979, when the court also had a full load of obligatory criminal appeals, the average period under advisement for civil appeals was 237 days. An informal survey of approximately 50 cases decided in early 1983, which were included in computing the 244-day average for the full year, produced an average of 232 days, suggesting that the average continued to fall slowly through the year.

Comparison with ten appellate courts studied during the late 1970s by the National Center for State Courts indicates that in both Alaska courts, a much greater portion of the total time required for the appellate process is consumed while the case is under advisement with the judges. In other courts in which the total time required is very lengthy, it is usually record preparation and briefing which consume the bulk of the time, or else there is a large backlog of fully-briefed cases awaiting oral argument.

Early in 1983, the supreme court began conferring weekly on pending cases in an effort to resolve more quickly those disagreements on circulating draft opinions which cannot be resolved by exchanges of written memoranda. Justice Compton's move from Juneau to Anchorage in the fall of 1983 should also help the court be able to consider and decide cases more efficiently. The likely next step in attempting to reduce the time required to decide cases will be more intensive screening of cases to identify as early as possible those which can and should be decided expeditiously and those which will need more extensive study.

The average time required for the preparation of civil records has declined steadily since the 1979 rule amendments placing the responsibility for transcript preparation squarely on counsel, rather than the trial court clerk. It stood at 72 days for cases decided in FY 1983, compared to 81 days the previous year and 104 days in 1979. The sheer number of appeals, and the resulting backlogs in trial court clerks' offices, plus the occasional extremely large appeal, keep the average well above the 40 days specified by Appellate Rule 210(g)(1).

The average time required to brief a civil appeal stood at 156 days, compared to 160 in FY 1982 and 147 in FY 1981. This compares unfavorably to the 89 days specified in Appellate Rule 212(a)(1), assuming all briefs are served by mail. In response, effective October 1, 1982, the court tightened its scrutiny of motions for extensions of time to file briefs in civil appeals.

The court recognizes that all the stages of the appellate process are interrelated, and progress in reducing the average length of time necessary to decide cases is most likely to be achieved simultaneously at both briefing and submission stages.

Petitions for Hearing

The number of petitions for hearing filed in the supreme court seeking review of decisions of the court of appeals grew substantially, but the percentage which the supreme court granted declined. There were 121 filed, compared to only 35 the year before. The court granted 12 and denied 82, a 13 percent grant rate. During FY 1982, the court had granted nine and denied 22 for a 29 percent grant rate.

The court of appeals disposed of 466 cases on the merits in fiscal year 1983, meaning that a petition for hearing was filed in the supreme court in approximately one-quarter of those cases. Multiplying this percentage by the 13 percent grant rate among the petitions which were filed indicates that about three percent of the cases decided on the merits by the court of appeals are decided on the merits a second time by the supreme court.

Since the court of appeals was organized in September 1980, the supreme court has granted 21 petitions for hearing to review its decisions. During that time, the court of appeals has decided over 700 cases on the merits.

Geographic Origin of Cases Pending in The Supreme Court

The geographic origin of pending cases in the supreme court has remained constant in percentages the past two years. The third judicial district continues to account for approximately 64% of all cases, the fourth district 23%, the first district 11%, and the second district 2% (see Table V).

Court of Appeals

Filings

Filings with the court of appeals, which considers only criminal cases, grew substantially during the past year. There were 584 cases filed during FY 1983, compared with 459 the previous year.

The 584 filings include 215 felony merit appeals, 128 misdemeanor merit appeals, and 164 sentence appeals. The remainder of the filings were discretionary petitions. Each of these numbers is far higher than in any previous year.

A number of factors have joined to increase the number of criminal appellate filings. Trial court criminal filings have increased substantially. Both the Alaska State Troopers and the Anchorage Police Department have increased the number of patrol officers. Presumptive sentencing was instituted in 1980 for repeat and violent felony offenders and expanded in 1982 to cover most other felony offenders. It has tended to reduce the sentencing discretion of trial judges, to reduce the proportion of defendants eligible for probation or parole, and to increase the length of sentences imposed. This increases the incentive for convicted defendants to appeal either the merits of their convictions, their sentences, or both. A large number of the provisions of the revised criminal code which took effect January 1, 1980 have not yet received definitive appellate construction, and subsequent legislatures have made substantial amendments to the code. Similarly, the completely revised drug law took effect on January 1, 1983. A variety of measures have been taken to combat drunken driving. Each of these factors contributes to the criminal appellate caseload.

Table VI, which gives a historical overview of court of appeals filings and dispositions, indicates this substantial growth in caseload. Table VI also shows the increase in number of opinions published and in cases pending.

Dispositions

The court of appeals disposed of 594 cases during FY 1983, an 81 percent increase over the 328 the previous year. The 594 dispositions included 466 cases decided on the merits, 53 petitions denied, and 75 cases dismissed. Broken down another way, they included 189 felony merit appeals, 158 misdemeanor merit appeals, 171 sentence appeals, and 76 petitions and miscellaneous other matters (see Table VII).

Unlike in past years when filings substantially exceeded dispositions, the court held its own during FY 1983, disposing of slightly more cases than were filed. The court has refined and streamlined its internal procedures to process particularly misdemeanor cases and sentence appeals more quickly.

The court of appeals can dispose of criminal cases no more quickly than other elements of the system are able to prepare them: the employees of the trial courts who prepare transcripts in appeals at public expense, and the attorneys in the appellate department of the Public Defender Agency and the Attorney General's Office of Special Prosecutions and Appeals. Resources added to only one component of the system cannot be used most effectively until similar commitments of resources are made to the other parts of the system.

Although dispositions exceeded filings for sentence appeals and misdemeanor merit appeals, the 189 dispositions of felony merit appeals fell short of the 215 new filings. The number of felony merit appeal filings grew substantially toward the end of the fiscal year. Felony merit appeals on the average require much greater expenditure of time at each stage of the process: transcript preparation, briefing, and decision. They are less amenable to techniques for expeditious handling than are other types of criminal matters, which is most emphatically not to say that they are not amenable to such techniques at all. The large and growing number of felony merit appeals is cause for concern, although to date the judges of the court have been able to keep up with those which reach them.

(Since felony merit appeal filings grew substantially near the end of the year, the bulk of the increase still rests at the earlier stages of the appellate process. Of the 214 felony merit appeals pending on June 30, 1982, a year ago, 16 percent were awaiting record preparation, 23 percent were awaiting briefs, and 45 percent were under advisement with the judges. Of the 235 pending on June 30, 1983, 22 percent were awaiting record preparation, 31 percent were awaiting briefs, and only 30 percent were under advisement with the judges).

The court of appeals publishes somewhat less than half of its dispositions on the merits. During the year, 169 (40%) were published and 255 (60%) were not. Appellate Rule 214(b) requires unpublished decisions, at a minimum, to state the issues considered. While some unpublished dispositions, labeled "Summary Dispositions," do little more than this, the court also issues many more lengthy and detailed unpublished opinions, labeled "Memorandum Opinion and Judgments." Unpublished decisions of either variety are without precedential effect and may not be cited to or by the courts of this state. Appellate Rule 214 (d). Unpublished dispositions are, however, distributed to all trial judges.

Although Appellate Rule 105(a) specifies that two of the three judges of the court constitute a quorum, the court has adopted a policy of requesting the chief justice to make a pro tempore appointment in all cases in which one of the three judges is disqualified. During this year, such appointments were made on 23 occasions. Four supreme court justices and 12 superior court judges received at least one such opportunity to sit as a pro tempore member of the court of appeals.

Pending Caseload

There were 436 open files in the court of appeals on June 30, 1983 (see Table VIII), compared with 449 a year earlier. Under the heading "Dispositions" above, it is noted that although the total declined, the number of felony merit appeals -- on the average the cases requiring by far the most judicial time -- increased during the past year.

Of the 436 open files, 149 were under advisement and awaiting decision -- i.e., in the hands of the judges rather than waiting for transcripts, briefs, or their turn on the argument calendar. A year ago there were 235 under advisement. Again, this indicates that the court is deciding cases more promptly than in the first years of its operations.

Time Required for Disposition of Cases

The time periods required for disposition of criminal cases by the court of appeals continue to be very lengthy. The averages for cases decided

Court of Appeals Secretaries: Joyce Baker, Susie Bamba, Kathleen Lawrence and Bonnie Johnson during FY 1983 were 571 days for felony merit appeals, 371 days for misdemeanor merit appeals, and 308 days for felony sentence appeals (see Table IX). By comparison, in its last year of handling criminal cases prior to organization of the court of appeals in 1980, the supreme court took an average of 696 days for felony merit appeals and 502 days for felony sentence appeals. (The supreme court did not handle misdemeanor appeals.) So the establishment of the court of appeals has begun to provide some improvement, although the improvement will need to continue substantially if the time periods are to be brought close to nationally-promulgated standards for the administration of appellate criminal justice.

Comparison of the FY 1983 statistics to past years shows the positive effects of Appellate Rule 217, designed to expedite misdemeanor appeals, and Standing Order No. 6, designed to keep tighter court control over motions for extensions of time to file briefs, particularly in sentence appeals and misdemeanor cases. Both were adopted in 1981. As mentioned above, orders for felony transcripts far exceed the capacity of the personnel available to type them. Appellate Rule 210(g)(1) provides that records on appeal are to be completed within 40 days; the average for felony merit appeals decided during the past year was 103 days, compared to 104 the year before. The average time required to brief a felony appeal dropped from 203 to 169 days, compared to the 89 days provided by the appellate rules (allowing for service by mail).

The average time a felony merit appeal was under advisement with the judges grew from 189 days to 205 days, but the number of such cases decided increased by a far greater proportion. These numbers, while very high, can also profitably be compared to the 292 days required, on the average, by the supreme court in felony appeals decided during 1980.

Geographic Origin of Cases Pending in The Court of Appeals

In the court of appeals, the geographic origin of pending cases shifted slightly. The fourth district percentage decreased from 31% to 23%, but this is mainly because Barrow cases were included in the fourth district figures last year. Likewise the second district's percentage rose from 6% to 11% with the inclusion of the Barrow figures. The first district showed a 1% increase, the third district a 2% increase (see Table X).

NOTE TO TABLES

In the following tables, and the figures cited in this text, petitions for hearing in cases decided by the court of appeals are counted in whichever category describes the case as it was in the court of appeals, i.e., the vast majority of them as "criminal appeals." The category "petitions" in the supreme court statistics is reserved for:

(1) petitions for review;

(2) petitions for hearing in district court civil cases decided on appeal by the superior court; and

(3) petitions for hearing after action by the court of appeals on a petition for review or hearing to that court.

The second and third of these categories are very small, so the bulk of the entries in the supreme court "petitions" column represent petitions for review. Nearly all the cases in the "criminal appeals" and "sentence appeals" columns in the supreme court tables came to the supreme court by discretionary petition for hearing following decision on the merits by the court of appeals.

ALASKA SUPREME COURT

TABLE I - HISTORICAL[a]

	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980[c]	1980-81[c]	1981-82	1982-83
A. FILINGS[b]								
Civil Appeals	214	251	256	305	255	303	257	271
Criminal Appeals	120	156	135	133	102	32	33	92
Sentence Appeals	32	63	56	40	51	15	1	14
Petitions for Review	86	126	156	141	140	119	104	113
Originals	16	17	27	37	24	24	14	19
TOTAL	468	613	630	656	572	493	409	509
B. DISPOSITIONS								
Civil Appeals	141	201	225	254	247	264	273	307
Criminal Appeals	67	88	131	139	126	104	26	83
Sentence Appeals	33	40	43	55	44	32	1	12
Petitions for Review	82	103	136	150	148	146	102	118
Originals	12	18	25	36	21	22	20	18
TOTAL	335	450	560	634	586	568	422	538
C. DISPOSITIONS								
On Merits	148	231	302	338	320	348	209	241
Petitions & Originals Denied	52	67	99	100	93	88	98	179
Dismissals	135	152	159	196	173	132	115	118
TOTAL	335	450	560	634	586	568	422	538
D. OPINIONS PUBLISHED	142	189	237	234	248	263	140	172
MEMORANDUM OPINION AND JUDGMENTS	0	0	15	38	26	19	21	21
E. PENDING END OF YEAR								
Civil Appeals	218	268	297	346	351	366	353	316
Criminal Appeals	132	200	209	200	41	13	23	33
Sentence Appeals	16	39	51	39	12	1	1	4
Petitions for Review	20	43	61	54	43	28	29	26
Originals	5	4	6	7	9	10	6	7
TOTAL	391	554	624	646	456	418	412	386

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[a] The figures for cases pending at the end of one year plus the next year's filings minus dispositions do not always equal cases pending at the end of the following year due to reclassifications and corrections. See footnote a to Table I.

[b] Includes reinstatements.

[c] On September 18, 1980, the Court of Appeals began operations and the jurisdiction and workload of the Supreme Court changed significantly. Information before and after that date is therefore not strictly comparable. The 1980 reporting period covers the calendar year 1980. It overlaps by six months with the 1980-81 reporting period, which begins July 1, 1980 and ends June 30, 1981. Activity during the last six months of 1980 is therefore reported in both columns.

ALASKA SUPREME COURT

TABLE II

DISPOSITIONS - FISCAL YEAR 1983

	Civil Appeals	Criminal Appeals	Sentence Appeals	Petitions for Review[a]	Original Applications	TOTAL ALL CASES
DISPOSITIONS						
PUBLISHED OPINION						
Affirmed	81	3		1		85
Reversed or vacated	82	3	1	2	1	89
Affirmed in part/Reversed in part	28	1	1			30
Other	2				2	4
Total	193	7	2	3	3	208
SUMMARILY ON MERITS						
Affirmed	15					15
Reversed or vacated	6			7		13
Affirmed in part/Reversed in part						
Other					5	5
Total	21			7	5	33
TOTAL ON MERITS	214	7	2	10	8	241
PETITION DENIALS	3	74	8	86	8	179
DISMISSALS						
Stipulated or by Appellant	58	1	1	11	2	73
Motion of Appellee	4			1		5
Sua sponte	28	1	1	10		40
TOTAL NOT ON MERITS	93	76	10	108	10	297
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	307	83	12	118	18	538

[a] Also includes two small categories of petitions for hearing. See text.

ALASKA SUPREME COURT

TABLE III

REASONS FOR CASES PENDING JUNE 30, 1983

	Civil Appeals	Criminal Appeals	Sentence Appeals	Petitions for Review[a]	Original Applications	TOTAL ALL CASES
Awaiting record	62					62
Awaiting briefs	70	9	2	4	1	86
Awaiting hearing/submission	41	3		5	1	50
Awaiting draft opinion	45	1			2	48
Draft opinion circulating	72	8		3	1	84
Awaiting decision on granting petition		10	2	14	2	28
Awaiting record return or decision on rehearing	9					9
Stayed or remanded	17	2				19
TOTAL CASES PENDING JUNE 30, 1983	316	33	4	26	7	386

[a] Also includes two small categories of petitions for hearing. See text.

ALASKA SUPREME COURT

TABLE IV - LENGTH OF TIME TO DISPOSITION

(Average Number of Days)

Cases Decided by Opinion or MO&J

	July 1982 - June 1983	July 1981 - June 1982	July 1980 - June 1981[a]			1980[a]		
	Civil Appeals	Civil Appeals	Civil Appeals	Criminal Appeals	Sentence Appeals	Civil Appeals	Criminal Appeals	Sentence Appeals
Notice of Appeal to Record Certification	72	81	96	142	54	112	137	73
Record certification to Last Brief	156	160	147	199	87	147	178	90
Last Brief to Argument or Submission	91	88	91	77	55	80	70	56
Argument or Submission to Circulation of Draft Opinion or Recommendation	118	121	137	173	143	132	161	132
Circulation of Draft Opinion or Recommendation to Publication	126	152	153	129	154	129	131	138
Publication to Closing	31	21	33	17	13	26	19	13
TOTAL NUMBER OF DAYS	593	623	657	737	506	627	696	502
Shortest Total Number of Days	55	169	193	215	351	228	215	229
Longest Total Number of Days	1392	1206	1492	1417	735	1529	1298	828
Number of Cases Averaged	(213)	(169)	(180)	(93)	(23)	(144)	(106)	(23)

[a] The "1980" and "July 1980 - June 1981" periods overlap by six months. Cases in which the mandate was issued between July 1, 1980 and December 31, 1980, were counted in preparing both sets of averages.

Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

ALASKA SUPREME COURT

TABLE V

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF CASES

PENDING AS OF JUNE 30, 1983

	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
FIRST DISTRICT		
Juneau	27	
Sitka	9	
Ketchikan	6	
Total	42	(11%)
SECOND DISTRICT & WESTERN ALASKA SERVICE AREA		
Bethel	3	
Kotzebue	2	
Barrow	2	
Total	7	(2%)
THIRD DISTRICT		
Anchorage	201	
Kenai	18	
Homer	12	
Kodiak	11	
Palmer	3	
Unalaska	1	
Valdez	1	
Total	247	(64%)
FOURTH DISTRICT		
Fairbanks	89	
Healy	1	
Total	90	(23%)
TOTAL	386	

ALASKA COURT OF APPEALS

TABLE VI

HISTORICAL[a]

	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83
A. FILINGS[b]			
Merit Appeals	157	245	343
Sentence Appeals	42	120	164
Petitions	58	80	74
Originals	5	14	3
TOTAL	262	459	584
B. DISPOSITIONS			
Merit Appeals	49	174	347
Sentence Appeals	25	63	171
Petitions	40	79	72
Originals	4	12	4
TOTAL	118	328	594
C. DISPOSITIONS			
On Merits	48	195	466
Petitions & Originals Denied	30	49	53
Dismissals	40	84	75
TOTAL	118	328	594
D. OPINIONS PUBLISHED	29	69	169
MEMORANDUM OPINION & JUDGMENTS AND SUMMARY DISPOSITIONS	25	97	255
E. PENDING END OF YEAR			
Merit Appeals	255	330	322
Sentence Appeals	47	101	96
Petitions	18	17	18
Originals	1	1	0
TOTAL	321	449	436

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[a] The figures for cases pending at the end of one year plus the next year's filings minus dispositions do not always equal cases pending at the end of the following year due to reclassification and corrections. See footnotes a and b to Table I.

[b] Includes reinstatements.

ALASKA COURT OF APPEALS

TABLE VII

DISPOSITIONS - FISCAL YEAR 1983

	MERIT APPEALS			SENTENCE APPEALS			PETITIONS			ORIGINAL APPLICATIONS	TOTAL
	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	From District via Superior	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	From District via Superior	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	From District via Superior		
DISPOSITIONS											
PUBLISHED OPINION											
Affirmed	50	31		22	2			1			106
Reversed or vacated	31	11		10				2	4		58
Affirmed in part/ Reversed in part	13			5	1		1				20
Other	2			4							6
Total	96	42		41	3		1	3	4		190
SUMMARILY ON MERITS											
Affirmed	50	74	1	67	5				1		198
Reversed or vacated	13	13	1	23		1	3	2	1		57
Affirmed in part/ Reversed in part	8	1		7				1			17
Other		2		1						1	4
Total	71	90	2	98	5	1	3	3	2	1	276
TOTAL ON MERITS	167	132	2	139	8	1	4	6	6	1	466
PETITION DENIALS							14	27	11	1	53
DISMISSALS											
Stipulated or by Appellant	14	15		17	2		2			1	51
Motion of Appellee	1	3									4
Sua sponte	7	5	1	2	1	1	2			1	20
TOTAL NOT ON MERITS	22	23	1	19	3	1	18	27	11	3	128
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	189	155	3	158	11	2	22	33	17	4	594

ALASKA COURT OF APPEALS

TABLE VIII

REASONS FOR CASES PENDING JUNE 30, 1983

	MERIT APPEALS			SENTENCE APPEALS			PETITIONS			ORIGINAL APPLICATIONS	TOTAL
	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	From District via Superior	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	From District via Superior	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	From District via Superior		
Awaiting record	51	11		14			2				78
Awaiting briefs	73	35		20	1		1	2	2		134
Awaiting hearing/ submission	22	5		6	1			1			35
Awaiting draft disposition	49	25		27	2		2	2			107
Draft disposition circulating	22	2		13	2		3				42
Awaiting decision on granting petition							1		1		2
Awaiting record return or decision on rehearing	9	4		1	1						15
Stayed or remanded	9	5		7	1				1		23
TOTAL:	235	87		88	8		9	5	4		436

ALASKA COURT OF APPEALS

TABLE IX - LENGTH OF TIME TO DISPOSITION

(Average Number of Days)

Appeals Closed by Opinion or Unpublished Disposition on the Merits

	July 1982-June 1983				July 1981- June 1982				
	Felony Merit	Misdemeanor Merit[a]	Felony Sentence	Misdemeanor Sentence	Felony Merit	Misdemeanor Merit		Felony Sentence	Misdemeanor Sentence
				Direct[a]		Direct[a]	Indirect[a]		Direct[a]
Notice of Appeal to Record Certification	103	48	31	28	104	47	48	34	47
Record certification to Last Brief	169	81	53	46	203	88	158	79	57
Last Brief to Argument or Submission	71	53	36	61	112	59	138	61	45
Argument or Submission to Circulation of Draft Opinion or Recommendation	122	112	113	109	104	76	119	87	23
Circulation of Draft Opinion or Recommendation to Publication	83	53	57	37	85	58	118	60	45
Publication to Closing	23	24	18	18	29	18	28	20	12
TOTAL NUMBER OF DAYS	571	371	308	299	638	347	609	341	230
Shortest Total Number of Days	61	97	89	160	69	130	267	146	112
Longest Total Number of Days	1584	921	984	730	1292	556	977	669	371
Number of Cases Averaged	(160)	(123)	(137)	(8)	(68)	(20)	(20)	(37)	(3)

[a] "Direct" misdemeanor appeals are appeals from the District Court to the Court of Appeals under AS 22.07.020(c) and (d), without any action by the Superior Court. The statute allowing such appeals took effect March 22, 1980, so no notices of appeal in this category were filed prior to that date. "Indirect" misdemeanor appeals are appeals by right after appellate review by the Superior Court. The 1980 statutory amendments eliminated this category of appellate jurisdiction, so this is merely a transitional category consisting of appeals noticed prior to the organization of the Court of Appeals and transferred to that court by the Supreme Court. The 1982-83 misdemeanor merit appeal averages are computed from 121 "direct" and 2 "indirect" appeals.

Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

ALASKA COURT OF APPEALS

TABLE X

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF CASES

PENDING AS OF JUNE 30, 1983

	Felony	Misdemeanor	Total	Percentage
FIRST DISTRICT				
Juneau	16	3	19	
Ketchikan	7	0	7	
Sitka	3	0	3	
Yakutat	0	1	1	
Total	26	4	30	(7%)
SECOND DISTRICT & WESTERN ALASKA SERVICE AREA				
Bethel	22	4	26	
Barrow	13	3	16	
Nome	2	0	2	
Kotzebue	1	1	2	
Total	38	8	46	(11%)
THIRD DISTRICT				
Anchorage	169	36	205	
Kenai	11	4	15	
Kodiak	9	2	11	
Naknek	0	8	8	
Palmer	2	6	8	
Dillingham	0	5	5	
Unalaska	0	3	3	
Homer	0	1	1	
Cordova	0	1	1	
Seward	1	0	1	
Total	192	66	258	(59%)
FOURTH DISTRICT				
Fairbanks	74	21	95	
Delta Junction	0	3	3	
Galena	0	2	2	
Healy	1	0	1	
Fort Yukon	1	0	1	
Total	76	26	102	(23%)
TOTAL	332	104	436	

Trial Courts

FY 1983 AND THE TRIAL COURTS

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FY 1983 And The Trial Courts

New Judges

There were several changes in the membership of the trial court judiciary in FY 1983.

Former Anchorage District Court Judge Beverly Cutler was appointed to the new superior court judgeship in Palmer on October 28, 1982. Also on October 28, Michael Jeffery was appointed to the new superior court judgeship in Barrow.

On November 12, 1982, Henry C. Keene, Jr. was chosen by Governor Jay Hammond to fill a new superior court judgeship in Wrangell/Petersburg. Prior to his appointment to the superior court bench, Judge Keene had been a district court judge in Ketchikan. George L. Gucker was chosen to replace Judge Keene on the district court bench in Ketchikan.

Barrow
Palmer
Anchorage
Valdez
Wrangell / Petersburg
Ketchikan

Natalie Finn and Bill Fuld being sworn in as district court judges

Judge Cutler's appointment to the superior court bench and the nonretention by the voters in November 1982 of Anchorage District Court Judges Joseph Brewer and Virgil Vochaska created three vacancies on the Anchorage district court bench. Anchorage attorneys Natalie Finn and William Fuld were chosen to fill two of the vacancies; one seat remains vacant.

The 1983 Alaska State Legislature created an additional superior court seat, to be located at Valdez. At the end of FY 1983, this position remained vacant.

Area Court Administrators

Kristen Carlisle, First District

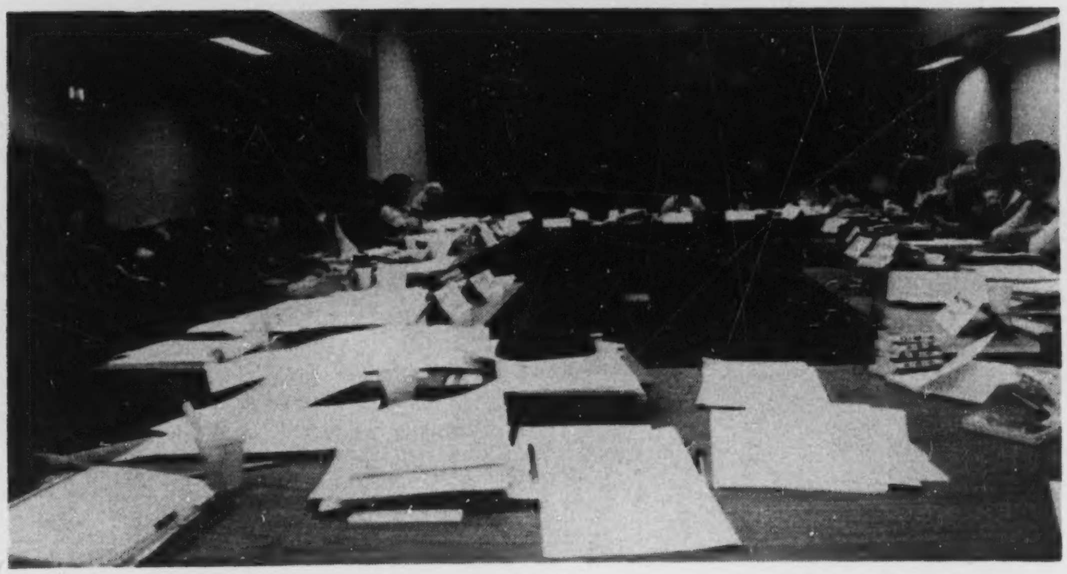
Kristen Carlisle was appointed area court administrator for the first judicial district effective January 1, 1983. Ms. Carlisle had previously worked as the Ketchikan clerk of court since 1977. On January 1, 1983, the area court administrator's office in the first judicial district officially transferred from Juneau to Ketchikan, where Presiding Superior Court Judge Thomas E. Schulz resides.

Al Szal, Third District

Al Szal has been the area court administrator for the third judicial district since June 1980. Mac Gibson has been the fourth district area court administrator since August 1981. Mike Hall serves as both court specialist for the administrative office and as the area court administrator for the second judicial district, Barrow and the area surrounding Bethel in the fourth judicial district. Mr. Hall has been an area court administrator since July 1981.

Mac Gibson, Fourth District

Mike Hall, Second District



Clerk's Conference

Clerks of court from around the state gathered in Anchorage February 14-18, 1983 for the fourth statewide clerks conference. Susan Miller, Manager of Special Projects, organized the conference.

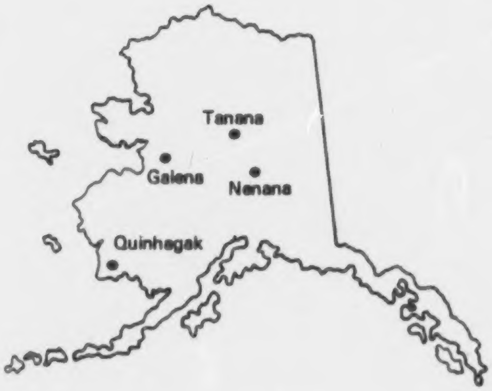
Participants listened to presentations about subjects such as information collection, interest calculation, and executions procedures, and participated in a professional effectiveness seminar. Participants also prepared new material for the statewide clerks' manual project, and wrote six resolutions about proposed changes or clarifications in court procedures.

New and Reopened Courts

In FY 1983, a new magistrate post was created in Quinhagak. On March 16, 1983, Billy Atseriak became Quinhagak's first magistrate.

Due to the assignment of public safety officers and city police at Tanana and increased caseload, the magistrate position at Tanana was reactivated. Paul K. Verhagen was appointed as magistrate at Tanana on February 14, 1983.

Earl L. (Skip) Slater, formerly the magistrate at Nenana, was reassigned by Judge Van Hoomissen, presiding judge for the fourth district, to Fairbanks as a committing magistrate. Magistrate Slater covers assignments to rural



areas when a resident magistrate or a district court judge is not available to handle cases in outlying locations. With the reassignment of Magistrate Slater to Fairbanks, Nenana will no longer have a resident magistrate. Barbara Macfarlane, magistrate at Healy, has been assigned magistrate duties at Nenana, to which she travels on a weekly basis and at other times as needed.

Galena Magistrate James A. Jackson added the neighboring community of Ruby to his travel and service schedule as requested by community officials in Ruby.

Service Areas Eliminated

In FY 1983, the supreme court eliminated the Bethel and Barrow service areas. These service areas had been created in 1974 and enclosed portions of the second and fourth districts. The service area scheme assigned administrative control of defined rural areas to a specific urban center.

When a superior court judgeship was created in Barrow, the need for a defined Barrow service area was eliminated. The Bethel service area has also been technically abolished. However, much of the court's operations in the Bethel area has continued in accord with previous practice under the service area organization.

Docketing Rules Change

A major change in statewide court procedures occurred in FY 1983, when the supreme court eliminated the requirement that court clerks keep docket sheets listing the filing of documents, issuance of process, entry of orders and judgments, etc. Effective April 4, 1983, this 53-part order amended 49 of the rules of court and added three new ones.

In 1972 the supreme court recognized that the court system no longer had adequate clerical staff to do the kind of docketing envisioned in many of the original court rules. Supreme Court Order No. 152 allowed the presiding judge of each judicial district to designate those documents which would be entered on the docket sheets. Although beneficial to the courts with the most severe staffing problems, this change led to some confusion since different courts adopted different docketing procedures. In September 1979, the Docketing Committee was created to study trial court docketing procedures and, if possible, to recommend a method of standardizing those procedures. The committee's investigation led finally to a recommendation that docketing be eliminated.

Facsimile Machine in Anchorage Court

In the Anchorage court, a facsimile machine was leased for use between the criminal division of the court and correctional facilities. Temporary orders and other documents may be transmitted from one institution to the other in a matter of minutes rather than waiting for orders to be hand-carried between the two institutions. The system has worked so well that the court system is now going to purchase the machine rather than lease it.

Fairbanks Eliminates District Court Backlog

On March 3, 1983, the Fairbanks district court underwent a change in procedure which has essentially eliminated the trailing trial calendar in that court.

Under the system prior to March 3, 16 to 20 cases per week were calendared for jury trials. However, there was no advance notification provided to the court about which cases would involve changes of pleas and civil compromises. Therefore, many trials which had been scheduled were not held and many jury panels were called and not used.

Under the new system, a pretrial order is used which requires the defense attorney, his client and the prosecuting attorney to appear at calendar call at 8:15 a.m. the day before their trial is scheduled. At that time they tell the court whether they are ready to go to trial.

If the parties indicate at calendar call that the defendant wants to change his plea or that the parties intend to enter into a civil compromise, they would be immediately sent to a courtroom to formalize the case in the manner indicated.

Since March, there has only been one jury called that was not needed. There is seldom any trailing trial calendar. Also, at the calendar call, cases can be, and often are, reassigned to another available judge.

TRIAL COURTS STATISTICAL SUMMARY — FY 83

The Alaska trial courts, consisting of the superior and district courts, have jurisdiction over all civil, criminal and children's matters filed in the State of Alaska (excluding cases exclusively within the jurisdiction of the federal courts). In fiscal year 1983 the superior courts experienced a 7% increase in workload. The district courts experienced an overall increase in cases filed of approximately 10%. Within the district court, this 10% increase was caused by a 15% increase in traffic case filings while non-traffic case filings increased by only 1%.

Table I provides summary caseload statistics for each superior and higher volume district court location for fiscal year 1983.

TABLE I
ALASKA TRIAL COURTS
CASELOAD SUMMARY FY 83
7/1/82 - 6/30/83

	SUPERIOR COURTS		DISTRICT COURTS				TOTALS	
Court Location	Filings	% of S.C. Total	Non-Traffic Filings	(1) Traffic Filings	Total	% of D.C. Total	Total Filings	% of State Total
Anchorage	9,960	54.2%	16,464	48,808	65,272	49.0%	75,232	49.6%
Barrow	189	1.0%	345	24	369	.3%	558	.4%
Bethel	444	2.4%	760	490	1,250	.9%	1,694	1.1%
Cordova			569	201	770	.6%	770	.5%
Delta Jct.			244	576	820	.6%	820	.5%
Dillingham			347	65	412	.3%	412	.3%
Fairbanks	3,138	17.1%	5,776	15,892	21,668	16.3%	24,806	16.4%
Glennallen			390	310	700	.5%	700	.5%
Homer			1,155	1,627	2,782	2.1%	2,782	1.8%
Juneau	1,022	5.6%	3,387	1,715	5,102	3.8%	6,124	4.0%
Kenai	819	4.5%	2,280	4,810	7,090	5.3%	7,909	5.2%
Ketchikan	740	4.0%	1,681	1,762	3,443	2.6%	4,183	2.8%
Kodiak	452	2.5%	1,542	1,765	3,307	2.5%	3,759	2.5%
Kotzebue	242	1.3%	784	219	1,003	.8%	1,245	.8%
Nome	345	1.9%	509	203	712	.5%	1,057	.7%
Palmer	501	2.7%	2,128	5,170	7,298	5.5%	7,799	5.1%
Seward			647	1,975	2,622	2.0%	2,622	1.7%
Sitka	350	1.9%	934	1,403	2,337	1.8%	2,687	1.8%
Tok			239	556	795	.6%	795	.5%
Unalaska			376	94	470	.4%	470	.3%
Valdez			521	513	1,034	.8%	1,034	.7%
Wrangell/	162	.9%	339	162	501	.4%	663	.4%
Petersburg	(2)		317	228	545	.4%	545	.4%
Subtotal	18,364	100.0%	41,734	88,568	130,302	97.8	148,666	98.1%
Lower Volume Courts	-	-	2,161	713	2,874	2.2	2,874	1.9%
TOTALS	18,364	100.0%	43,895	89,281	133,176	100.%	151,540	100.0%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

FIRST	2,274	12.4%	7,366	5,469	12,835	9.7%	15,109	10.0%
SECOND(3)	776	4.2%	2,113	446	2,559	1.9%	3,335	2.2%
THIRD	11,732	63.9%	26,859	65,465	92,324	69.3%	104,056	68.7%
FOURTH(3)	3,582	19.5%	7,557	17,901	25,458	19.1%	29,040	19.1%

(1) Traffic case dispositions are used as filings in district court.

(2) Wrangell & Petersburg operate a combined superior court but separate district courts.

(3) Barrow is included in the second rather than fourth district starting this fiscal year. Bethel Service Area is included in fourth district.

SUPERIOR COURT

Jurisdiction

The superior court is the trial court of general jurisdiction, with original jurisdiction in all civil and criminal matters. Appeals to the superior court from final judgments of the district court are a matter of right. The superior court has exclusive jurisdiction in all domestic relations matters, children's proceedings, probate, guardianship and civil commitments.[1]

FY 83 Caseload - Superior Courts

Superior court case filings statewide increased 7% from FY 82. Total dispositions decreased by 1%. These figures indicate that existing superior court judicial resources were unable to keep up with the increasing workload in these courts. During FY 83, three additional superior court judgeships (in Barrow, Palmer and Wrangell/Petersburg) were created by the legislature and filled by the governor. Sufficient superior court workload has developed at these sites that these new judges have been unable to significantly assist their respective judicial districts in handling the increasing workload in other court sites. The continuing increase in case filings coupled with a decrease in case dispositions indicates that the superior courts of the state are beginning to build a backlog of pending cases which will negatively affect the expeditious processing of cases filed in future years.

Table II provides summary caseload statistics for each superior court location in fiscal year 1983.

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[1] For more information about superior court jurisdiction see *Profile*, supra.

TABLE II
SUPERIOR COURTS
CASELOAD SUMMARY FY 83
7/1/82 - 6/30/83

Court	FY83 Filings	FY83 Dispositions	Percent Change in Filings From FY82	Ratio of Dispositions to Filings	
				FY82	FY83
Anchorage	9,960	8,086	- 4%	84%	81%
Barrow(1)	189	104	(2)	(2)	55%
Bethel	444	436	+25%	88%	98%
Fairbanks	3,138	2,639	+13%	80%	84%
Juneau	1,022	721	+10%	81%	71%
Kenai	819	623	+18%	87%	76%
Ketchikan	740	500	- 1%	83%	68%
Kodiak	452	317	+34%	89%	70%
Kotzebue	242	208	+32%	98%	86%
Nome	345	288	+24%	93%	83%
Palmer	501	291	(2)	(2)	58%
Sitka	350	290	+21%	73%	83%
Wrangell/(3) Petersburg	162	67	(2)	(2)	41%
TOTAL	18,364	14,570	+ 7%	84%	79%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	2,274	1,578	+16%	81%	69%
Second	776	600	+20%	94%	77%
Third	11,732	9,317	+ 3%	86%	79%
Fourth	3,582	3,075	+14%	83%	86%

(1) Barrow is included in the second rather than the fourth district starting this fiscal year.

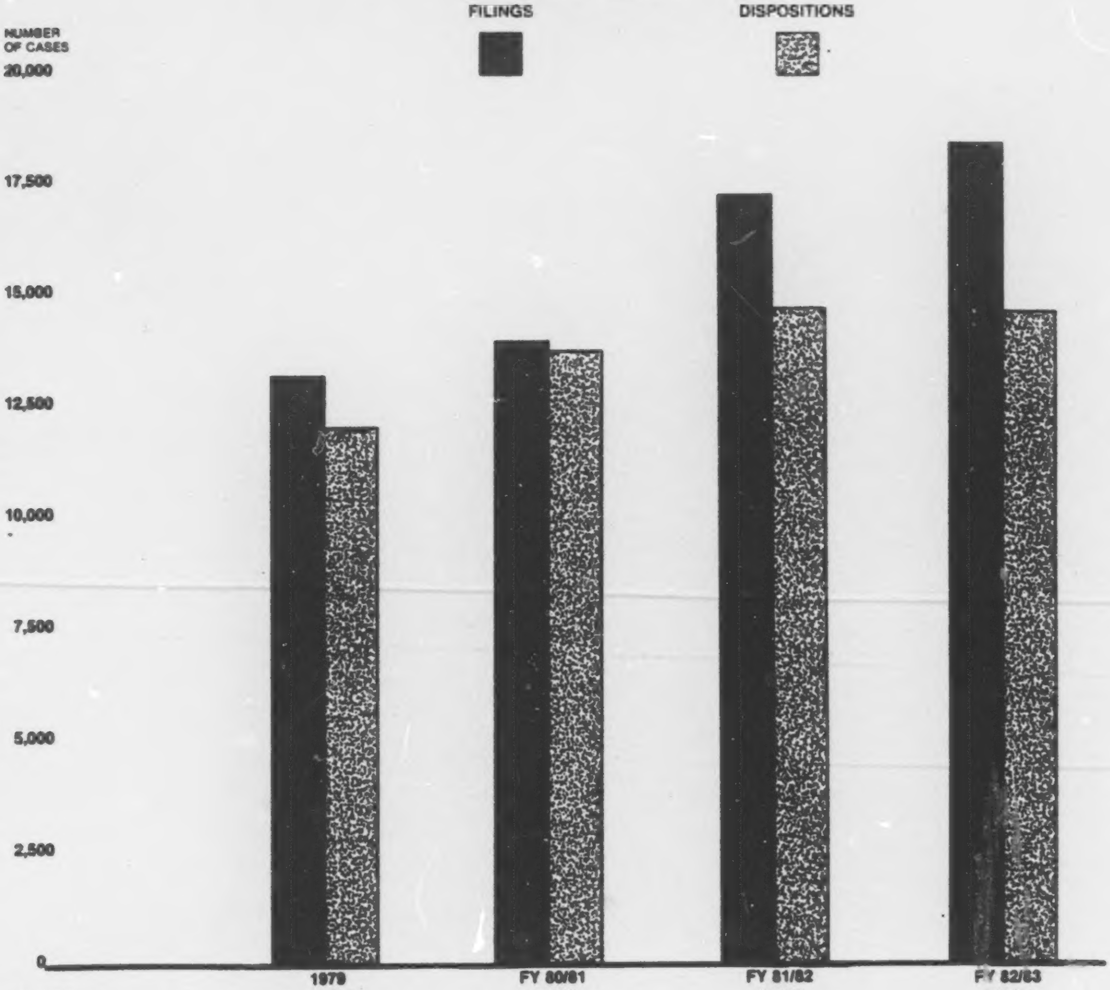
(2) New superior courts were created in Barrow, Palmer and Wrangell during FY 83.

(3) Wrangell & Petersburg operate a combined superior court but separate district courts.

TABLE III

SUPERIOR COURTS

SUMMARY OF FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS
1979 - FY 82/83



	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	FY 82/83
FILINGS	13,109	13,953	17,168	18,364
DISPOSITIONS	12,034	13,619	14,680	14,570

Table III provides a historical perspective on total superior court filings and dispositions. Since 1979, total filings have increased by 40%. During the same period, total dispositions have increased by only 21%. This table demonstrates the potential long term caseflow problems facing the state's superior courts.

Table IV provides an analysis of the composition of cases filed in superior courts during FY 83. The largest category of superior court cases is domestic relations which accounted for 47% of total case filings. Within the general category of domestic relations, domestic violence cases continue to stand out as a clear example of the impact of recent legislation on the workload of the court system.

Domestic violence cases make up 18% of the domestic relations caseload and approximately 9% of the overall superior court workload. Last year these percentages were 12 and 6% respectively. Until approximately 2 years ago, domestic violence cases did not exist.

Within the general category of probate matters, guardianship and sanity matters continue to account for 26% of the total probate case filings. Legislation enacted in 1981 resulted in dramatic increases in guardianship (+322%) and sanity (+187%) case filings during FY 82. Filings in these categories leveled off during FY 83, indicating that the dramatic increase experienced in FY 82 is here to stay.

Filings of felony cases in superior court increased 22% in FY 83. This was the single greatest percentage increase in all superior courts. For the second year, felony cases where the primary charge involved violence or drugs accounted for over half (57%) of all felony filings. Filings of felony cases involving a primary charge of violence increased 17% over FY 82 levels, while felony filings involving drugs increased by 82% over FY 82 levels.

TABLE IV

SUPERIOR COURTS CASELOAD COMPOSITION FY 82/83

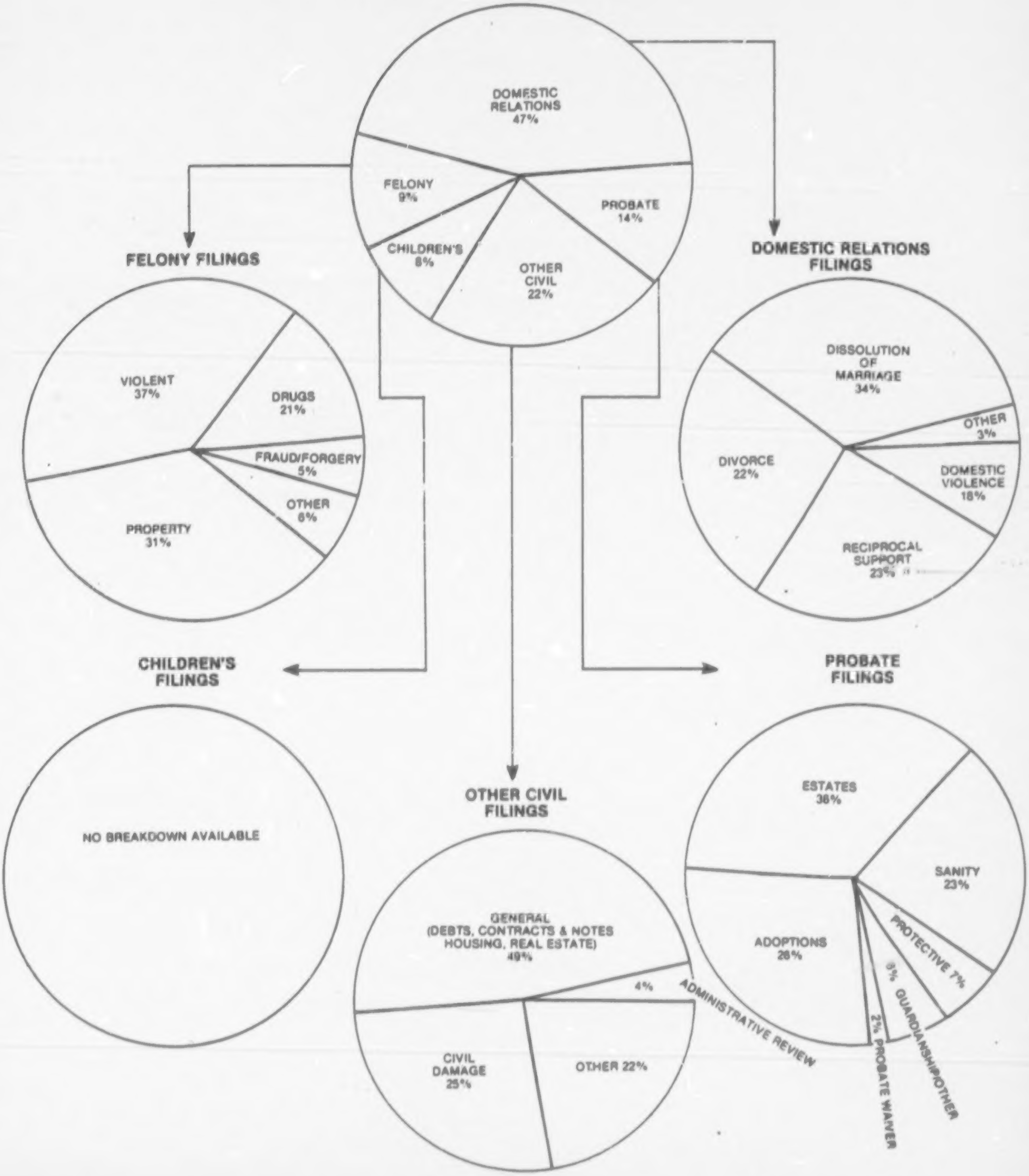


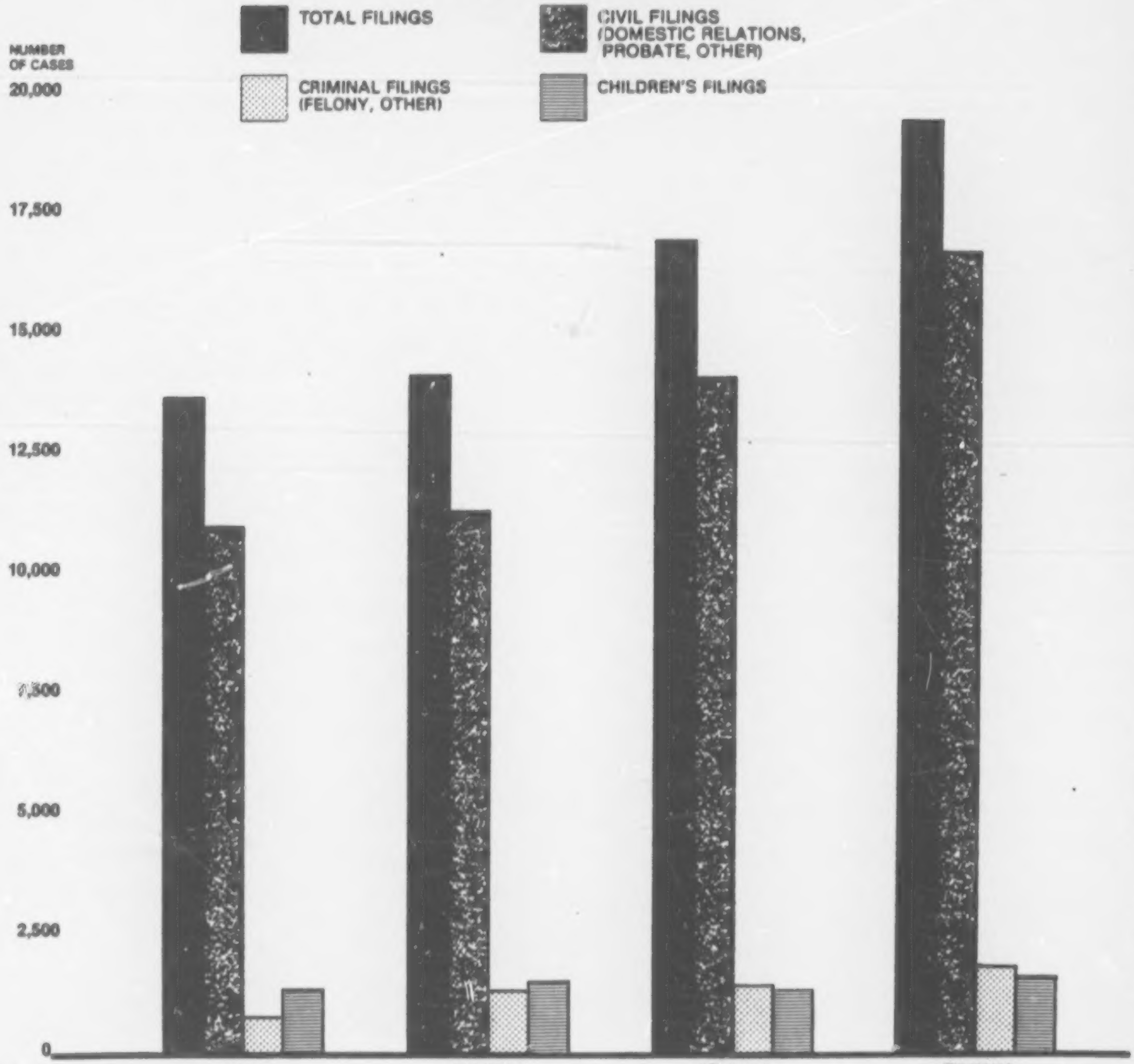
Table V provides a historical perspective on the general composition of cases filed in superior courts since 1979 based on the major categories of civil, criminal and children's matters.

Since 1979, total civil case filings have increased by 38%, children's matters have increased by 11% and criminal (felony) case filings have increased by 133%.

TABLE V

SUPERIOR COURTS

SUMMARY OF CASELOAD 1979 - FY 82/83



	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	FY 82/83
Civil Filings	11,066	11,445	14,581	15,260
Criminal Filings	691	1,194	1,317	1,607
Children's Filings	1,352	1,314	1,270	1,497
Total Filings	13,109	13,953	17,168	18,364

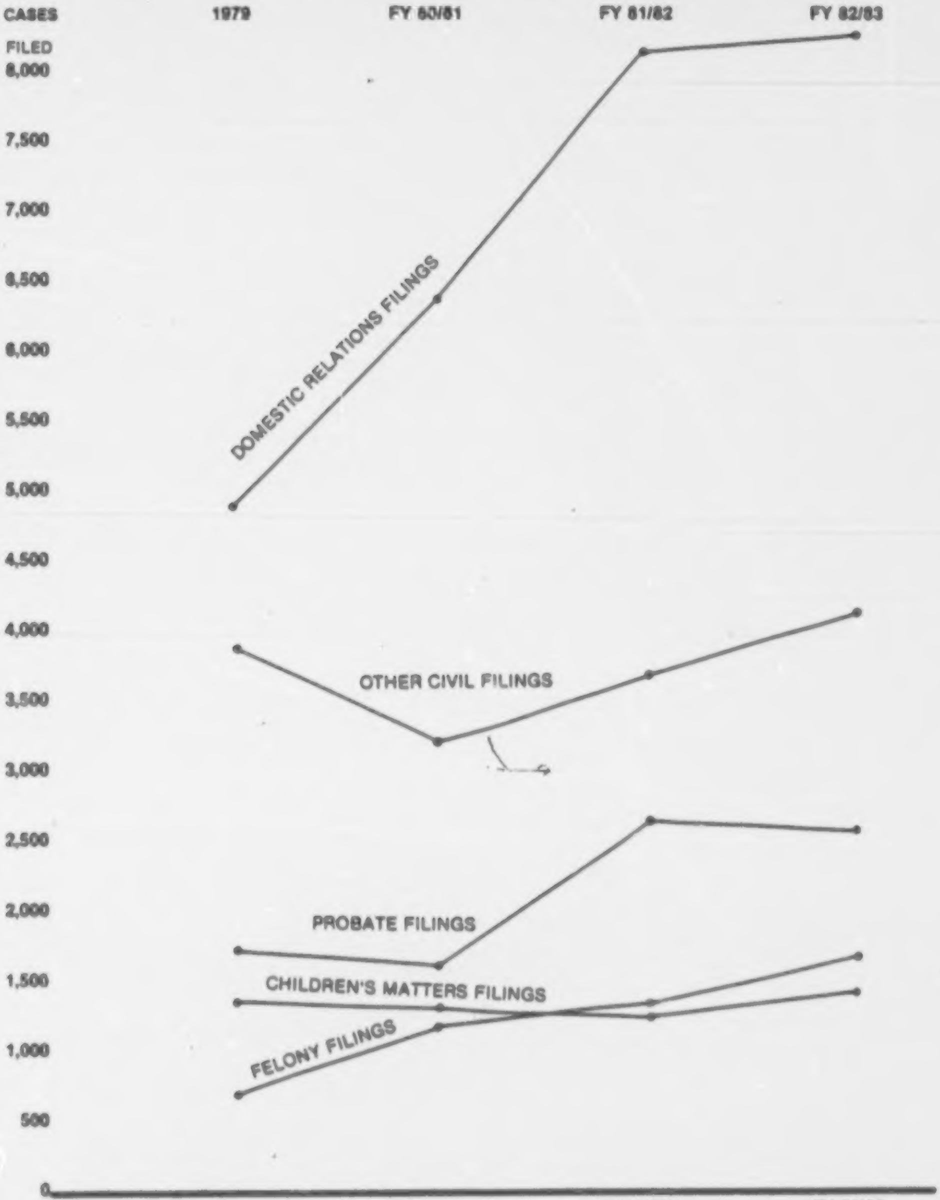
Table VI provides a historical perspective on the detailed composition of cases filed in the superior courts since 1979. Domestic relations, probate and non-domestic relations civil case filings have increased by 57%, 47% and 7% respectively since 1979.

A comprehensive and detailed set of statistical tables describing the superior court caseload in FY 83 is available in the statistical supplement located at the back of this annual report. Any questions regarding the superior court caseload may be directed to the administrative office of the Alaska Court System.

TABLE VI

SUPERIOR COURTS

SUMMARY OF 1979 - FY 82/83 FILINGS BY CASE TYPE



		1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	FY 82/83
Domestic Rel.	:	5,445	6,429	8,257	8,546
Other Civil	:	3,873	3,346	3,629	4,138
Probate	:	1,748	1,670	2,695	2,576
Children's	:	1,352	1,314	1,270	1,497
Felony	:	691	1,194	1,317	1,607

DISTRICT COURT

Jurisdiction

In criminal matters, the district court has jurisdiction over state misdemeanor violations and violations of ordinances of political subdivisions. In civil matters, the district court may hear cases for recovery of money or damages not exceeding $10,000 and for recovery of specific personal property not exceeding $10,000 in value. In motor vehicle tort cases, civil jurisdiction in district court is $15,000.

Magistrate posts have been created in the smaller, generally rural areas of the state. They have also been established in metropolitan areas to handle routine matters and to ease the workload of the district court. In criminal matters, magistrates may give judgment of conviction upon a plea of guilty to any state misdemeanor, may try state misdemeanor cases if the defendant waives his right to a district court judge, and may hear municipal ordinance violations without consent of the accused. In formal civil cases, magistrates may award damages up to $1,000 (in small claims cases up to $2,000). Magistrates have emergency authority in children's matters.[1]

FY 83 Caseload - District Court

The district court statistics are maintained in two components — high and low volume courts. There are approximately 20 high volume courts including all district court/magistrate sites located with a superior court. There are approximately 40 magistrates in locations that are identified as lower volume courts.

Because traffic citation cases are not reported to the administrative office until they have reached a final disposition, the number of filings for traffic matters in a year generally understates the court's actual workload. Consequently, wherever filing data is required to assess the overall workload of the courts, traffic disposition data have been substituted for traffic filing data. This is true of all tables and charts in this report.

During FY 83, the statewide caseload in district courts increased by 10%. This increase in caseload was comprised of a 15% increase in traffic matters disposed of by the court and a 1% increase in non-traffic matters filed with the courts. Both traffic and non-traffic case dispositions increased by 14% over FY 82. Table VII provides summary caseload statistics for district court locations in fiscal year 1983.

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[1] For more information about district court and magistrate jurisdiction, see *Profile*, supra.

TABLE VII
DISTRICT COURTS
CASELOAD SUMMARY FY 83
7/1/82 - 6/30/83

Court Location	Non Traffic Filings	% Change From FY 82	(1) Traffic Filings	% Change From FY 82	Total Filings	% Change From FY 82	Ratio Disposed to Filed FY82	FY83
Anchorage	16,464	- 1%	48,808	+17%	65,272	+12%	93%	99%
Barrow	345	-43%	24	-	369	-39%	93%	105%
Bethel	760	-26%	490	+110%	1,250	- 1%	91%	104%
Cordova	569	+27%	201	-19%	770	+10%	92%	84%
Delta Jct.	244	+44%	576	+32%	820	+35%	89%	92%
Dillingham	347	-25%	65	+71%	412	-18%	88%	112%
Fairbanks	5,776	+ 3%	15,892	+20%	21,668	+15%	97%	100%
Glennallen	390	- 7%	310	-35%	700	-22%	90%	106%
Homer	1,155	+19%	1,627	+18%	2,782	+18%	91%	96%
Juneau	3,387	+ 3%	1,715(2)	-65%	5,102	-37%	98%	89%
Kenai	2,280	+25%	4,810	+17%	7,090	+19%	94%	97%
Ketchikan	1,681	- 2%	1,762	+21%	3,443	+ 9%	97%	92%
Kodiak	1,542	+10%	1,765	+14%	3,307	+12%	98%	94%
Kotzebue	784	- 1%	219	-	1,003	+26%	89%	105%
Nome	509	- 9%	203	- 4%	712	- 7%	105%	100%
Palmer	2,128	-11%	5,170	+68%	7,298	+33%	91%	99%
Petersburg	317	+110%	228	+36%	545	+71%	101%	77%
Seward	647	+40%	1,975	+41%	2,622	+41%	97%	99%
Sitka	934	- 9%	1,403	+44%	2,337	+17%	95%	102%
Tok	239	+149%	556	-20%	795	+ 1%	102%	95%
Unalaska	376	+ 7%	94	-43%	470	- 9%	96%	84%
Valdez	521	+22%	513	-10%	1,034	+ 4%	96%	92%
Wrangell	339	-23	162	-43%	501	-31%	94%	104%
Subtotal	41,734	+ 1%	88,568	+15%	130,302	+10%	94%	98%
Lower Volume Courts	2,161	+ 6%	713	- 9%	2,874	+ 2%	88%	93%
TOTALS	43,895	+ 1%	89,281	+14%	133,176	+10%	94%	98%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

FIRST	7,366	- 1%	5,469	-31%	12,835	-16%	96%	93%
SECOND	2,113	- 7%	446	+95%	2,559	- 3%	95%	102%
THIRD	26,859	+ 3%	65,465	+19%	92,324	+14%	93%	98%
FOURTH	7,557	- 1%	17,901	+19%	25,458	+11%	96%	100%

(1) Traffic case dispositions are used as filings in district court.

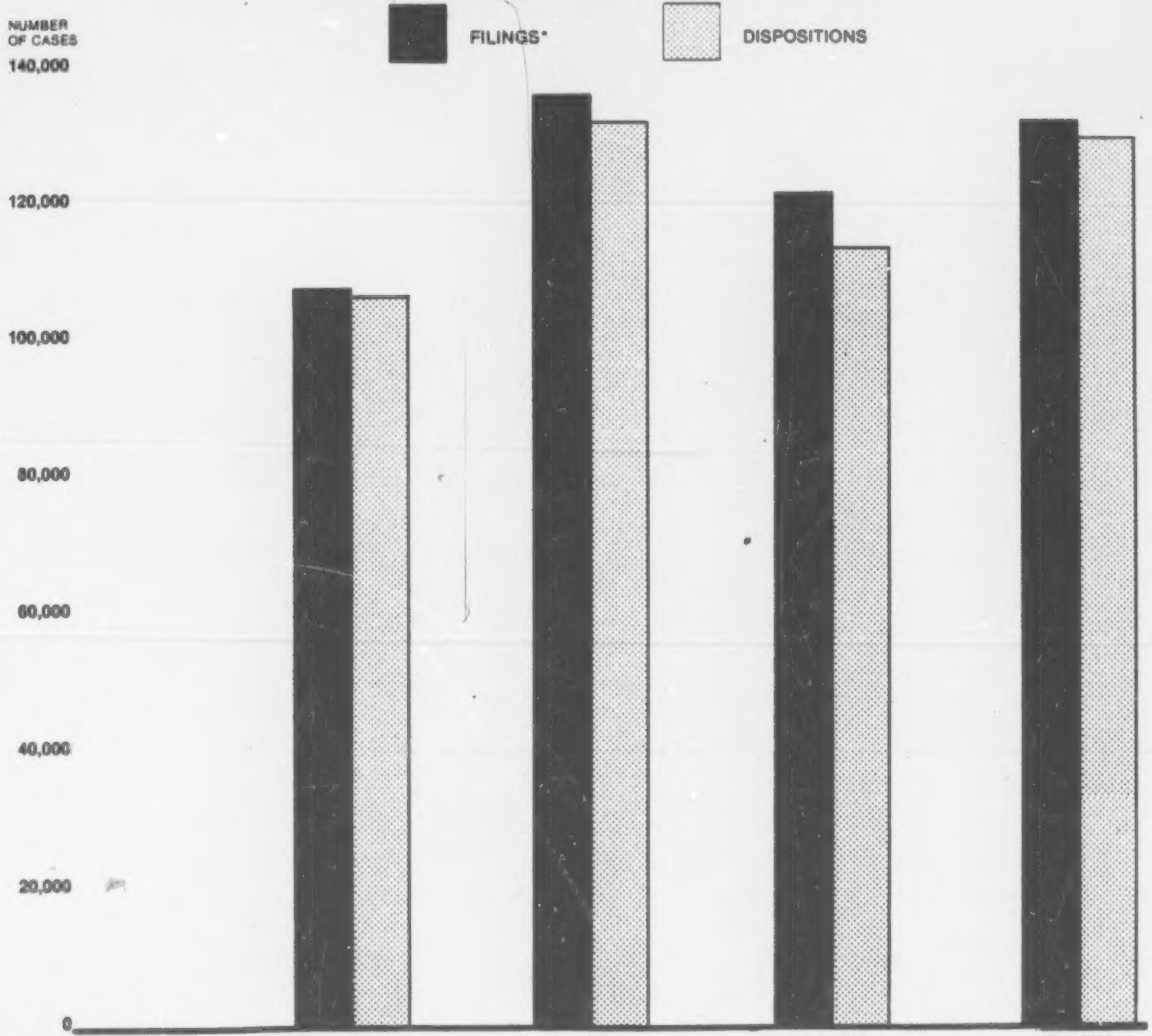
(2) Juneau traffic filings down due to city processing most parking tickets.

(3) Barrow is included in the second rather than the fourth district starting this fiscal year. Bethel Service Area is included in fourth district.

(4) Starting this FY, "Other Criminal" cases are no longer counted as new case filings. Prior year data has been modified on all tables to reflect this change and allow for multi-year comparisons on the same base.

TABLE VIII

DISTRICT COURTS
(High and Low Volume)
SUMMARY OF FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS
1979 - FY 82/83



	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	FY 82/83
FILINGS	108,471	136,605	121,376	133,176
DISPOSITIONS	107,381	132,436	114,061	130,513

*Traffic case dispositions are a more accurate indicator of actual workload than traffic filings. Therefore, traffic case dispositions are used for both filing and disposition data above. For all other case types, filings data were used as indicated.

Table VIII provides a historical perspective on total district court filings and dispositions. Since 1979, total district court filings (traffic and non-traffic combined) have increased by 23% while total district court dispositions have increased by 22%.

Table IX provides an analysis of the composition of the cases filed in district courts during FY 83. The largest category of district court cases remains traffic citations (all vehicular cases excluding driving while intoxicated, driving on a suspended or revoked license and some accident related offenses) which accounted for 68% of the total workload. The 32% of the caseload that was non-traffic cases was comprised of 65% criminal cases and 35% civil cases.

Misdemeanor case filings account for approximately 60% of the non-traffic filings or about 19% of the total district court caseload. Of these misdemeanor cases, approximately 40% involve driving while intoxicated (DWI). DWI cases therefore represent about 8% of the total workload. This represents an increase of about 1% over FY 82 (about 1,300 additional cases).

TABLE IX

DISTRICT COURTS

(High Volume Courts)

CASELOAD COMPOSITION FY 82/83

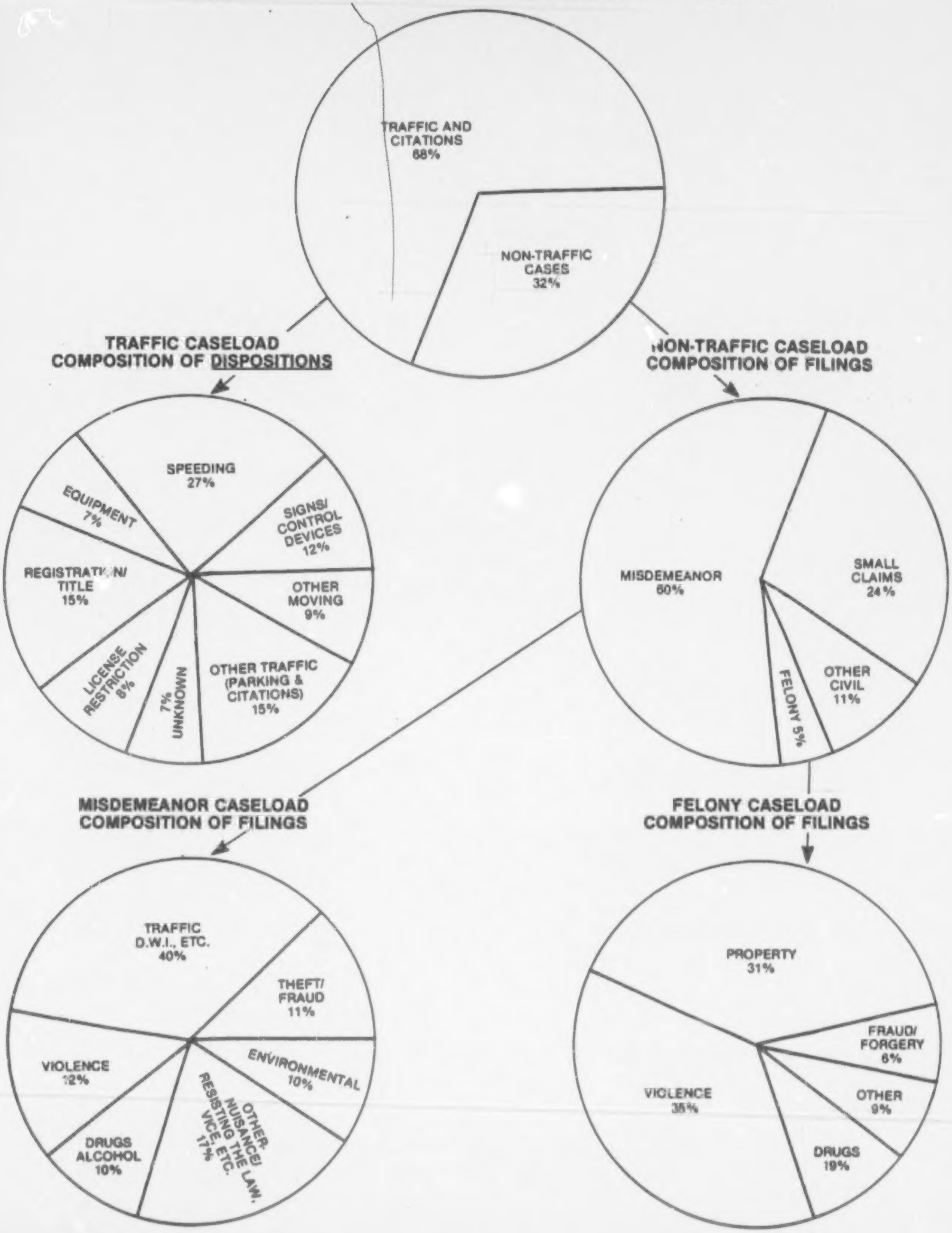
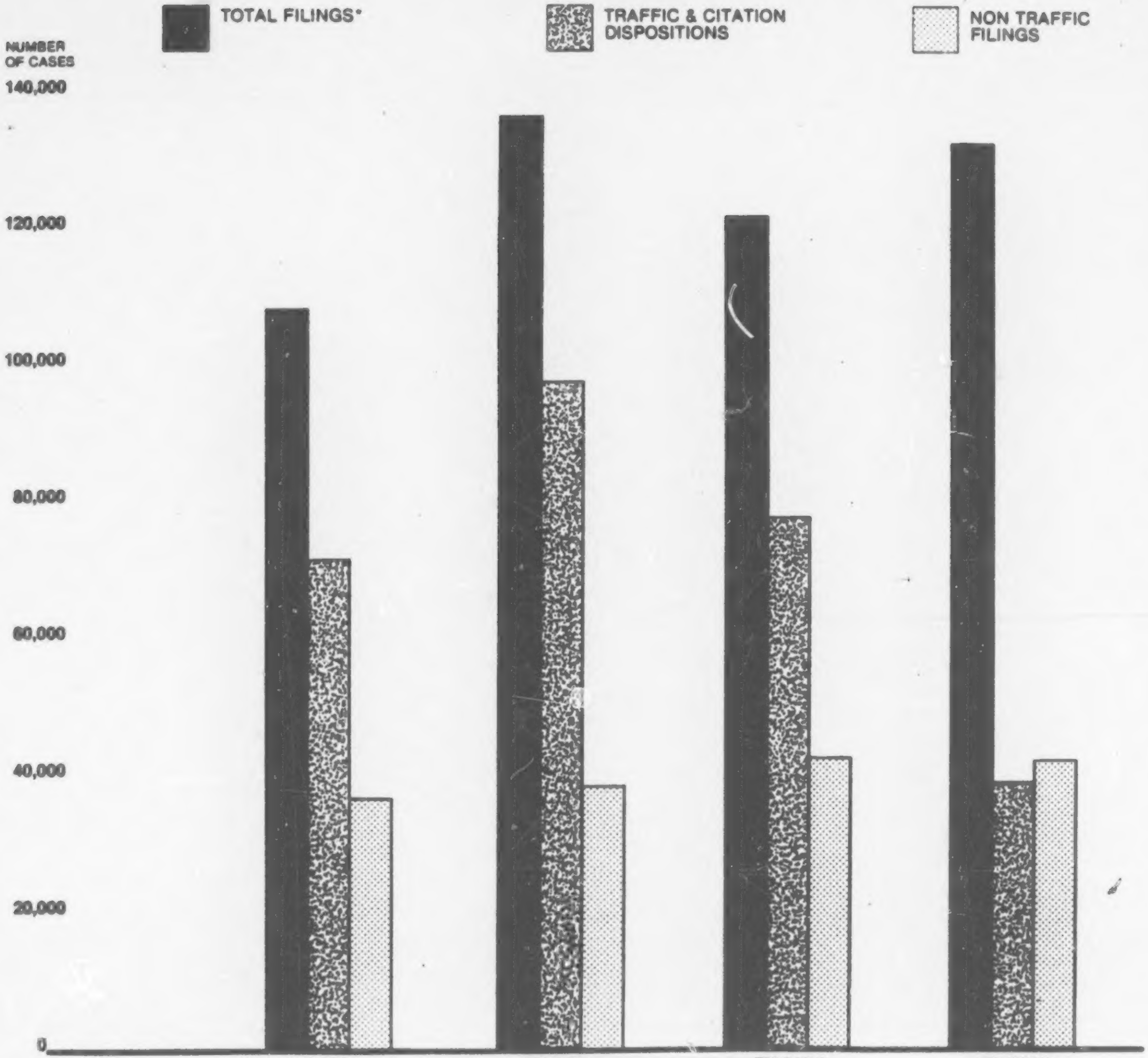


TABLE X

DISTRICT COURTS
(High and Low Volume)
SUMMARY OF CASELOAD
1979 - FY 82/33



	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	FY 82/83
Traffic Dispositions*	71,595	97,705	78,080	89,281
Non-Traffic Filings	36,876	38,900	43,296	43,895
Total Caseload	108,471	136,605	121,376	133,176

*Traffic case dispositions are a more accurate indicator of actual workload than filings. For non-traffic cases, actual filings data were used.

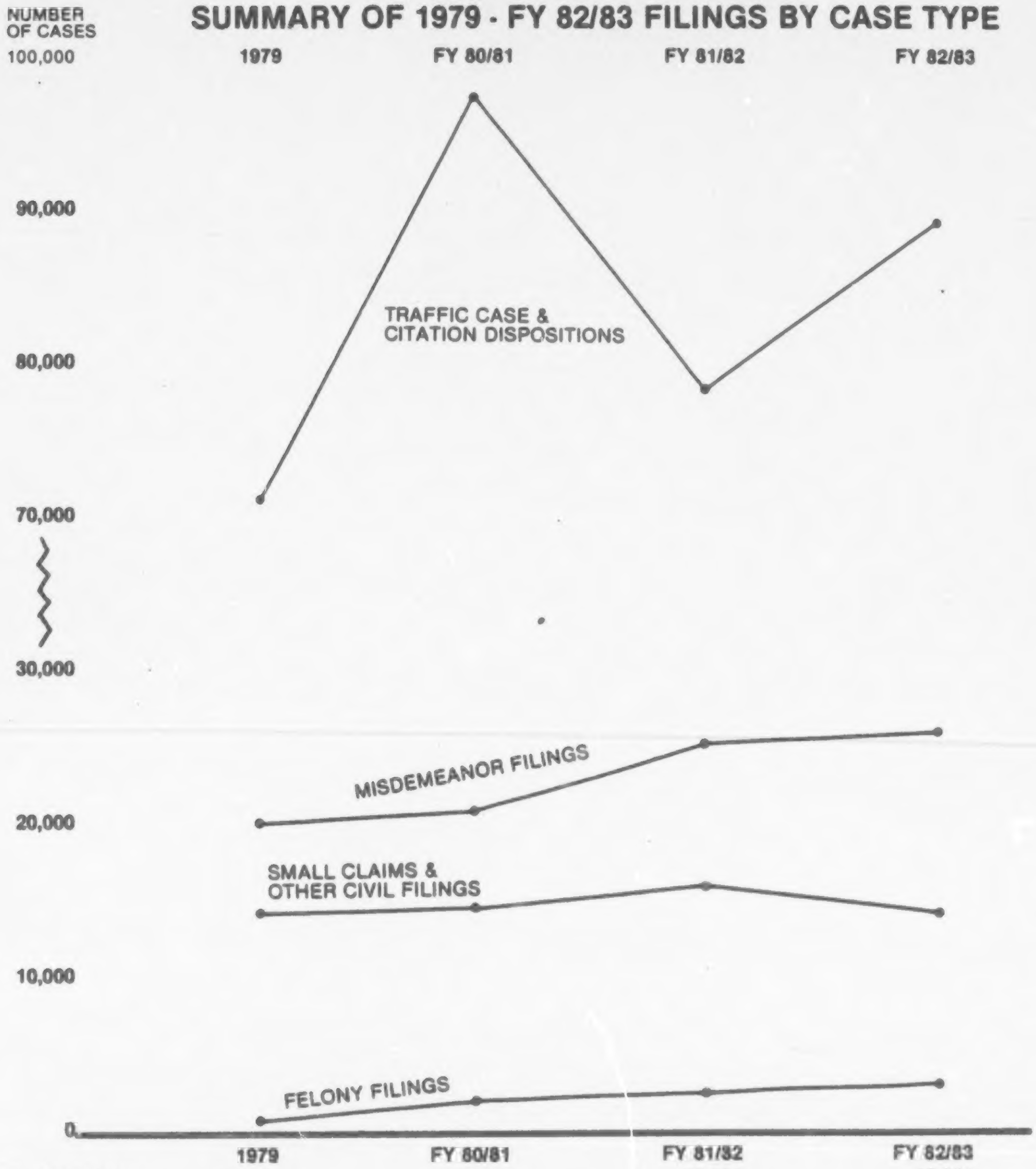
Table X provides a historical perspective on the composition of the caseload in district courts since 1979 based on the major case categories of traffic and non-traffic matters. Since 1979, non-traffic matters have steadily increased for a total increase of 19%. FY 83 showed the lowest rate of increase (+1%) in district court non-traffic matters since 1979. It is too soon to know if this signals a leveling off of district court non-traffic matters. Traffic matters have fluctuated annually. In FY 83 they increased 15% from the preceding year.

TABLE XI

DISTRICT COURTS

(High and Low Volume)

SUMMARY OF 1979 - FY 82/83 FILINGS BY CASE TYPE



		1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	FY 82/83
Traffic Dispos.	:	71,595	97,705	78,080	89,281
Misdemeanor Filings	:	20,357	21,938	25,111	26,728
Small Claims & Other Civil Filings	:	14,850	14,941	16,147	14,805
Felony Filings	:	1,669	2,021	2,038	2,362
Total Filings	:	108,471	136,605	121,376	133,176

Table XI provides a historical perspective on the detailed composition of the caseload in district courts since 1979. Changes in filings of specific types of cases have been as follows: small claims and other civil cases (due to an 8% decrease in these filings in FY 83) have shown no overall increase, misdemeanor cases (+31%) and hearings in felony matters have increased (+42%).

A comprehensive and detailed listing of statistics concerning both high and low volume district courts is available at the back of this annual report. Any questions regarding the district court caseload should be addressed to the administrative office of the Alaska Court System.

Special Reports

SPECIAL REPORTS

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Court Automation Project

In the last half of 1982, the Alaska Court System embarked on a large scale project to implement automated data/word processing equipment and systems in selected courts. It is the intent of this project to automate 100% of the superior court caseload statewide, and approximately 90-95% of the district court/magistrate caseload statewide. To accomplish this aim, microprocesser based computer systems will be installed in 16-18 trial court sites around the state. In addition to trial court applications, similar types of automation are planned for the appellate court clerk's office. Automated accounting, purchase order processing and inventory control applications are being reviewed for implementation in the administrative office.

As of January 1984, ten trial courts (Barrow, Bethel, Kenai, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Nome, Seward, Sitka and Valdez) will have these new microcomputer systems installed. An appellate court clerk's system will be near implementation by year end. Remaining court sites as well as administrative office applications should be completed during calendar year 1984.

Why Automation?

In the past, when local courts demonstrated an increase in caseload, new clerical positions were more or less automatically added to the court to cope with the increased amount of job duties. Recurring proposals for limitations on state spending coupled with projected decreased state revenues will make it very difficult for the court system to respond to increasingly complex records processing and case management tasks in this manner.

The IBC Computer installed in trial courts around the state

The overall goal of the court system's automation activities is twofold. First, the use of computer and other data/word processing technology will allow the court system to keep long-term spending down. At the same time, the use of this technology will assist local courts to efficiently handle increased caseloads and complex litigation with the absolute minimum increases in existing staff. The administrative office is committed to ongoing efforts to employ combinations of available technology (computer, audio, video, micrographic) to improve the court system's overall operations whenever possible. The automated court records project currently underway, while a major undertaking by itself, is but one aspect of overall attempts to apply current technology to the operations of the Alaska Court System.

Functions Performed by Court Computers

Computer systems currently being installed are designed to perform the following functions:

Provide access to automated case records (all case types) for tracking case status;

Provide automated case calendaring (case scheduling, tickler file creation and maintenance, and calendar production);

Provide automated name indexes (eliminating the need for manual card indexes);

Provide automated accounting (machine generated receipts and accounting reports);

Provide automated management information (automated tracking of cases from filing to disposition as well as production of routine or ad hoc reports regarding fines due, SIS cases due for review, filings due or events scheduled for any case or group of cases);

Provide word processing applications (most systems implemented will include a word processing package that will be able to function simultaneously with data processing activities);

Provide automated statistical information for local trial courts and the administrative office (these systems will completely replace the current statewide case reporting system. The administrative office will retrieve all annual report and periodic management information from the local automated systems. Clerks will no longer have to fill out case reporting forms on each case processed);

Provide automated case disposition reporting (traffic and possibly criminal case disposition can be automatically forwarded to appropriate state agencies). Successful implementation of automated disposition reporting will require the active cooperation and participation of state and local level law enforcement agencies.

The combination of functions listed briefly above are intended to allow local clerks and judges to efficiently control and direct their court's case processing activities, thus minimizing situations where the court is continually forced to react to unexpected occurrences.

Dick Delaplain, Manager
Technical Operations

It is anticipated that full implementation of this project will be completed by the end of the calendar year 1984. This target date is approximately 120 days later than originally projected. Delays, to date, have been the result of problems encountered with hardware and software at various sites. Most problems have been resolved quickly. However, in two instances persistent and recurring problems with transient power (spikes of high voltage and sags of low voltage) which cause unpredictable results with the computers have proven to be more difficult obstacles to overcome. Problems in one of these sites have been resolved while the second site continues to have recurring problems which are being addressed as quickly as possible.

System design, initial and follow-up training and system maintenance will be provided by the administrative office's technical operations section with the assistance of the electronics engineering section.

New Electronic Recording Equipment

The Alaska Court System has used an electronic court reporting system since 1960, in lieu of the more traditional and labor intensive shorthand reporting method of documenting court hearings. The electronic system has proved to be a great success in Alaska and the Alaska experience may serve as a model to other courts around the country which are considering electronic reporting systems.

For the past decade the Alaska Court System has used recording equipment consisting of heavily modified home entertainment reel tape recorders along with a variety of other electronic equipment. Progress in electronics has been explosive in this decade, with the result that the state of the art in technology as of ten years ago is now essentially obsolete. Because of the extent of the changes which have occurred in the last decade, the court system in 1982 embarked on a program to modernize its court recording equipment. The goals of this program were:

1. To acquire equipment and adopt procedures which would allow for the use of telecommunications wherever appropriate to substitute for transportation of individuals to the courtroom.

2. To increase the simplicity of equipment operation and to promote accuracy and error prevention.

3. To allow for ease and economy of duplication of the tape record.

4. To reduce the storage space required for preservation of the tape record.

5. To provide interfaces for media, hearing impaired individuals, and audio tape players.

6. To use more efficient and less obtrusive microphones to lessen the recording studio aspect of the courtroom.

7. To reduce the physical space required for the recording equipment.

8. To provide simple, easy to use playback equipment for use by the public, the bar, juries and the court in reviewing the record.

9. To adopt a system that insured, insofar as possible, the safety and integrity of the tape record.

Preliminary equipment review, design, and the identification of equipment requirements were completed in FY 1983 and funding was secured from the legislature. It is anticipated that installation will begin in March 1984 and will be completed in fall 1984.

Participants entering courtrooms equipped with the new system will find little evidence that electronic recording is in use. Microphones will be small, inconspicuous, and very sensitive. In many cases they will be mounted in the ceiling. The recording apparatus itself will use cassette tapes which will record on four channels. Because of the cassette format and the miniaturization of components, the entire recording apparatus will occupy just a small fraction of the space currently required which will allow the clerk substantially more workspace.

Once court proceedings start, however, the benefit of new technology will become evident. The court and counsel will both be privy to log counter readings displayed on a digital readout. This feature will allow the clerk to locate prior recorded testimony more quickly. Should court and counsel have need for private discussion, they will be able to retire to the judge's chambers and have their discussions placed on the court record through the use of a chamber microphone. This microphone can be activated by the clerk with a key operated switch which will simultaneously deactivate all courtroom microphones and speakers to insure security.

The new equipment will allow the court to take testimony via telephone. Courtroom microphones and loudspeakers will form a large scale speakerphone which will permit normal movement within the courtroom, while still allowing complete two way communication with the person in telephone communication with the court. Because telephone charges are only a small fraction of transportation costs, substantial savings both to the court system and the public may be possible in many cases.

The recorder will feature several inputs and outputs that will serve to expand its utility to the court and public. In the event that a participant or juror suffers from a hearing impairment, the clerk can furnish a small amplifier and headset. This unit plugs into the recording apparatus through an extension cable and will allow the individual to set the volume to whatever level necessary for comfortable listening.

Should it be required that electronic evidence be entered into the court record, such as evidence contained on a tape recording, a recorder may be plugged directly into the courtroom recorder. The evidence will be recorded on the court record while simultaneously being heard over the courtroom loudspeakers.

The court system permits access to court proceedings by the radio and television news media under certain conditions, with the stipulation that all audio signals must come from the court's recording system. The new system will allow the media to make such connections without technical help. A single extension cable is all that will be required.

When record playback is needed, far less access time will be required. Because the recording equipment will be controlled by a microprocessor, the clerk will simply enter the desired log number on a keyboard, allowing the machine to automatically go to that point in the record and commence playback. After the playback, when court proceedings resume, the clerk will need to push only one control. The machine will then return to the proper location and will not record over previous testimony.

The same microprocessor control will simplify operation of the recorder in other areas. The in-court clerk will have graduated from a formal training program and will be certified in the operation of the equipment. Should the clerk require additional information about the operation of the equipment, he/she will be able to refer to a comprehensive manual or, alternatively, to review the operation in question on a video monitor. It is anticipated that operational errors will be reduced and that the clerk will have more time to attend to other duties.

The same automated controls will be available on equipment used to playback the record for use by jurors, attorneys, the court, and interested members of the public. This simplicity of operation should further the already demonstrated utility and cost effectiveness of electronic court recording.

Legislation Affecting The Courts

1983 Legislative Session

In 1983 the Alaska State Legislature passed three bills of particular interest to the judiciary.

Public concern about intoxicated drivers resulted in enactment of Chapter 77, which increases penalties for drunk driving and which establishes a new procedure for immediate administrative revocation of an intoxicated person's driver's license.

Staff Counsel Karla Forsythe

Under this bill, which became effective October 17, 1983, the mandatory 72-hour jail sentence for first time offenders is unchanged, but a mandatory minimum $250 fine has been added. The mandatory incarceration for a second offense is increased from 10 to 20 days, with a mandatory minimum $500 fine, while jail time for a third offense is increased to 30 days with a mandatory minimum fine of $1,000. Driving while a license has been cancelled, suspended or revoked by a court for drunk driving or failure to take a chemical test brings a minimum of 30 days incarceration and a mandatory minimum fine of $500. If the license was revoked as a result of a second offense drunk driving or failure to take test, the penalties increase to 90 days mandatory jail time and $1,000 mandatory fine.

Under new provisions of Title 28, if a chemical test indicates .10 blood alcohol content, or if a driver refuses a chemical test, the enforcement officer gives the driver notice of intent to revoke the person's driver's license, and also seizes the license. The revocation is effective in seven days unless the driver files a request for administrative review. The review is heard by a Department of Public Safety hearing officer. With the consent of the administrative director of the Alaska Court System, district judges and magistrates can be designated to serve as hearing officers for the Department of Public Safety (this system is analogous to existing statutory provisions which authorize magistrates in outlying areas to serve as vital statistics registrars and as absentee voting officials). An earlier version of the bill would have required the court, not public safety, to conduct revocation hearings, as well as to issue temporary drivers' licenses pending the revocation hearing.

The administrative review hearing is limited to the issues of whether the officer had reasonable grounds to believe that the person was driving a vehicle while intoxicated, and whether the person either refused a chemical test or the test indicated .10 blood alcohol content. The hearing officer can issue a limited license, but only for a first offense, only for persons who submitted to a chemical test and for only the final 60 days of the revocation period, which must be at least 90 days. Appeal from the hearing officer's decision is to superior court.

Other new provisions of Title 28 authorize the state to move for forfeiture of the motor vehicle upon a third offense of drunk driving and/or for failure to take chemical test.

In anticipation of the fiscal impact on the court, the legislature approved a fiscal note of $278,600, primarily for new clerical personnel in the criminal divisions of the courts at Anchorage, Fairbanks, Kenai and Palmer.

In other court-related legislation, the court system was asked to study the use of earphones by each juror (HCR 11). The administrative director prepared a report outlining the costs of headphones, and forwarded the report to Representative Milo Fritz who introduced the resolution.

Another bill increased the number of superior court judges from 26 to 27, and in effect authorized creation of a new superior court position at Valdez (Chapter 65). The finance committee letter of intent notes that the superior court judgeship in Valdez shall not be filled until the supreme court eliminates the Valdez district court judgeship.

1984 Legislative Session

Several bills which the court system supports await further action by legislative committees during the upcoming session.

SB 101, presently before the house judiciary committee, authorizes the supreme court to adopt a fish and game bail forfeiture schedule for minor fish and game violations. The senate resources committee letter of intent explains that this procedure would be similar to the process currently employed for traffic citations. Persons cited for minor fish and game violations who wish to plead guilty would be permitted to mail and forfeit to the court a specified sum of bail money. This procedure permits efficient enforcement of minor offenses, and frees public safety and court time to concentrate on major violations.

The senate resources committee believes the bill should apply to such misdemeanors as snagging fish, failure to punch harvest tickets, failure to submit hunting permit reports and license not in possession. The committee has stated that the bill should probably not apply to commercial fishing violations, limited entry, guide related offenses, closed season, "same day airborne" violations and waste violations.

SB 312 provides for creation of an office of public advocacy within the department of administration. This office would assume various non-judicial duties which have been created in recent years by the legislature and assigned to the courts. These duties include administration of public defender conflict contracts, public guardian services, visitors, experts, guardians ad litem and legal representation to indigent parties in child custody cases where Alaska Legal Services Corporation represents one party. The bill requires that all services performed by office staff or under contract must be rendered in a manner that avoids conflicts of interest. Both the court and the department of administration believe transferring these administrative functions from the judicial branch will result in substantial cost savings, and that centralizing these statutorily required duties in one agency will improve the quality of services.

Affirmative Action

At the end of fiscal year 1983 (FY 83), 443 nonjudicial personnel were employed by the Alaska Court System. The racial composition of the nonjudicial workforce was 365 Caucasians (82.4%), 37 Alaska Natives (8.4%), 24 Blacks (5.4%), eight Asian/Pacific Islanders (1.8%), and nine (2%) employees who were classified as Other Minorities. Minorities represented 17.6% of the total work force.

During FY 1983, 176 nonjudicial positions were filled. One hundred thirty-seven (137) positions were filled by new hires and 39 positions were filled by promotions. Of the newly hired personnel, there were 108 Caucasians, 13 Alaska Natives, eight Blacks, two Asian/Pacific Islanders and six employees classified as Other Minorities. Of the promoted employees there were 31 Caucasians, three Alaska Natives, four Blacks and one classified as Other Minorities.

Due to attrition, the percentage of minorities employed by the court system decreased from 18.5% at the end of calendar year 1982 to 17.6% at the end of fiscal year 1983. However, the percentage of minorities at salary range 13 and above increased from 14.6% to 19.2% in that same time period.

The number of women in managerial positions continues to increase. Women filled 33.3% of the managerial positions at the end of calendar year 1982. At the end of fiscal year 1983, 37.5% of all managerial positions were filled by women.

CLASSIFIED POSITIONS

Location	Total Number of Employees	Caucasian		Alaska Native		Black		Asian/Pacific Islander		Other		Total Minority Hiring Goal
		Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	
1st District	41	35	N/A	3	5	1	*	2	1	0	*	8*
2nd District	19	7	N/A	9	15	1	*	0	*	2	*	16
3rd District (excluding Anchorage)	42	34	N/A	6	5	0	*	1	*	1	*	6*
Anchorage	170	139	N/A	9	8	16	8	2	3	4	3	24
4th District (excluding Fairbanks)	6	4	N/A	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Fairbanks	71	62	N/A	4	3	4	3	0	*	1	1	9*
Appellate Courts	39	35	N/A	1	4	0	*	3	*	0	*	6*
Administration	55	49	N/A	3	3	2	3	0	*	1	*	9*
TOTAL	443	365	N/A	37	47	24	14	8	4	9	4	82*

*Goals are computed by multiplying the number of available positions by the percentage of a specific minority present in an area's population. If the resulting number is less than one-half a position, no specific goal is assigned to that minority group. However, when the sum of the fractions of all minority groups equaled one or more positions, these positions were added to the total minority hiring goal.

Employee Achievement Award Program

The Employee Achievement Award Program was started in April 1981 to reward outstanding job performance, innovative improvements and time saving techniques. Only classified permanent or probationary employees are eligible for nomination. Winners of the award receive a wall plaque and from one to three days off with pay.

July - September 1982

The winner of the third quarter 1982 employee achievement award was Mette Russell. Mette is the jury clerk for the Fairbanks court.

Nineteen of Mette's co-workers signed a memorandum nominating her for the employee achievement award. The memo stated "the position of jury clerk is demanding, stressful and often taxing; yet Mette has remained pleasant and courteous to her co-workers in her capacity as jury clerk. Employed with the court system since September 6, 1978, Mette has always been an industrious worker, willing to assist at any time and in any department. It is refreshing working with an employee such as Mette and we feel she well deserves the employee achievement award."

Mette Russell
Fairbanks Jury Clerk

October - December 1982

Janalou Collins was the fourth quarter 1982 winner of the court system's employee achievement award. Jan has worked as a deputy clerk for the appellate courts since July of 1980. Prior to that date she worked in the administrative accounting department for five years.

Janalou Collins
Appellate Court Deputy Clerk

Jan has made several suggestions designed to increase efficiency and lower costs. One of the suggestions concerned the notification to counsel regarding oral argument. Jan suggested a postcard be designed with which counsel are notified of their oral argument dates and which they must return to the court. In the past, a letter was sent by registered mail to counsel to insure service. The new procedure will save the court approximately $100 a month.

Jan has been trained in virtually all areas of the appellate court office. She currently is responsible for the opening and processing of all criminal matters that are filed. She also assists the public and counsel at the front counter. In February 1983, Jan was appointed lead deputy clerk for her office.

In her nominating letter, Pam McIntire, Chief Deputy Clerk for the appellate courts, outlined Jan's timesaving suggestions and added, "Jan is dependable, responsible and a hard worker. She gives her all to her duties and coworkers. She has assisted in the training of new personnel and helps to resolve daily problems that arise. Jan is well liked by all who know her. She is always pleasant and willing to accept new tasks. She is a real asset to our office and to the Alaska Court System."

January - March 1983

Nettie "Penny" Titus received the employee achievement award for the first quarter of 1983. Penny is the supervisor of the criminal department in the Fairbanks court. She has worked for the court system for 24 years.

Nettie "Penny" Titus
Fairbanks Criminal Supervisor

In a nomination letter signed by 48 Fairbanks court system employees, Penny was praised for her "knowledgeable supervisory and training capabilities. Penny has demonstrated her capacity to supervise with fairness, consideration and cooperation, and to elicit these same high standards from her staff, thereby encouraging excellent, positive morale among them. She has carried this outstanding leadership into her frequent contacts with fellow workers and administration and set an example for us all."

May Pannick
Kotzebue Clerk of Court

The employee achievement award for the second quarter of 1983 was presented to May Pannick, clerk of court at Kotzebue. May received the award for her efforts in organizing the Kotzebue court and for her assistance to the Barrow court.

Judge Paul Jones of Kotzebue commended May for her "initiative, knowledge of the job (gained in less than two years with the court system), extraordinary effort, dedication, willingness, outstanding performance and responsibility." Concerning her assistance to the Barrow court, Judge Michael Jeffery said "the help she provided in taking charge of the clerks' area...was critical to the ability of the Barrow court to continue functioning. Without her strong efforts, the court here would be facing an impossible situation of paper work that would have to be done. But she kept us pretty much up to date, and she did all of this with good humor and initiative."

Criminal and Civil Pretrial Delay Project

The pretrial delay project was initiated by the Alaska Court System in conjunction with the National Center for State Courts.

The first phase of the project focused on documentation of the time required to process cases through the courts. This phase was completed in May 1983. In phase II, a detail analysis of four courts which exceed the statewide goal of processing cases (Kodiak, Kenai, Barrow and Bethel) will be conducted. This phase should be completed by November 1983.

Phase III, the comparison of FY 1982 to FY 1983 case data, will be completed by the end of March 1984. This data will provide a two-year history for each superior court site. Phase IV, the final segment, will be a written report to each superior court explaining the data analysis and providing suggestions for improving the processing of cases. This phase should be completed by the end of June 1984.

Proposal to Simplify Civil Litigation in Alaska

In October 1982, the Alaska Court System and the National Center for State Courts initiated a joint project to develop the ways and means to simplify civil litigation in Alaska.

Chief Justice Edmond Burke created three task forces composed of judges, lawyers and related professionals. The task force on domestic relations was charged with an examination of actions involving divorce, dissolutions of marriage, reciprocal support, and related areas. The task force on personal injury focused on actions involving automobile accidents, products liability, aircraft accidents and the remaining types of personal injuries as a group. The task force on commercial litigation would examine actions involving promissory notes, commercial code contracts, installment purchase agreements and mechanic's liens. The first task force meetings were held on March 11, 1983.

At the end of FY 1983, the task forces had not yet sent final reports and recommendations to the Alaska Supreme Court. Preliminary reports from the task forces were discussed at the 1983 annual judicial conference held in Fairbanks on June 6 - 8, 1983. It is expected that final task force reports will be sent to the supreme court in FY 1984.

Report from the Forms Committee

July 1, 1982 - June 30, 1983

The forms committee is a committee appointed by the chief justice to review, approve and attempt to standardize court forms. During fiscal year 1983, Manager of Special Projects Susan Miller was appointed chairman of the committee, replacing Deputy Director Rick Barrier. The other members of the committee as of the end of the fiscal year are Anchorage Superior Court Judge Victor Carlson, Anchorage District Court Judge Glen Anderson, Kenai (formerly Kodiak) Magistrate Brigitte McBride, Fairbanks Clerk of Court Wayne Wolfe, Third District Rural Court Training Assistant Ross Cushman, and Special Projects and Forms Committee Secretary Trilby Noon. Two members of the committee who resigned during the year were: Magistrate Training Assistant Bob Martin and Third District Rural Court Training Assistant Charlene Dolphin.

Susan Miller, Manager
Special Projects

The committee held two-day meetings in Anchorage about every six to eight weeks during the fiscal year. The following new sets of standard forms were completed during this period: children's proceedings forms, traffic forms, and income assignment (for non-payment of child support) forms. In addition, forms committee members produced the following sets of forms which have been printed and distributed to the trial courts although the full forms committee has not yet reviewed them:

1. Bob Martin and Field Auditor Marge Lori developed standard jury forms and wrote a revised second edition of the Jury Clerk's Manual.

2. Bob Martin and Charlene Dolphin worked with several individuals in the Anchorage clerk's office (Goldeen Goodfellow, Carole Frost, Mary Ann Dearborn and LeEllen Baker) to develop execution forms and a procedures manual to implement the new law on the rights of debtors and creditors which became effective August 26, 1982. Revised forms and instructions on garnishments were produced later in the fall.

3. Bob Martin and Susan Miller revised the standard coroner forms and Bob Martin revised the Coroner's Handbook.

4. Susan Miller and the Administrative Accounting Office revised and renumbered the standard accounting forms.

In addition to the above, the committee also developed or approved numerous individual new forms and revisions of existing forms, including about 16 criminal forms, nine civil or small claims forms, six probate forms, 12 administration forms, and four children's proceedings forms. The committee also revised the standard criminal subpoena forms and produced localized versions of the forms for most superior court locations.

The forms bulletin system of notifying courts of new and revised forms, which was begun by Susan Miller in June 1982, was continued this year. Four bulletins were issued during the year. The committee also proposed changes to eight rules of court during the year.

In January 1983, Bill Wright and Charleen ("Charlie") Babcock from court supply asked the committee to eliminate nine existing requisition forms and replace them with a single new requisition form and forms catalog. The committee agreed, and the first edition of the forms catalog was produced and distributed in February 1983. The 10-page catalog currently includes only the forms in the approved sets of standard court forms. Therefore, several existing forms are not listed in the catalog. They will be added to the catalog when they are approved by the forms committee and renumbered for inclusion in one of the standard sets of forms. By listing the date of the latest version of each form, the catalog helps courts find out if the forms they are using are up to date. The catalog also explains how to order the forms, how to request revisions and how to propose new forms.

Anchorage Law Library

Law Libraries

During FY 1983 improvements were made in several of the branch law libraries. When space became available in the Palmer court facility, the library collection was moved and standard federal materials were purchased for the library. In the Bethel library, the staff corrected a shelving problem and rearranged the entire collection to provide space for collection growth. The Fairbanks law library acquired new furniture and study carrells to replace badly worn existing furniture.

Because of severe space limitations the new Barrow superior court has not been provided with a law library collection. Computer assisted legal research through computer terminal access may be an alternative to satisfy the court's research needs. This option is currently under consideration.

The professional staff of the Anchorage law library was reorganized in FY 1983. Now each of the three professional law librarians in Anchorage is expected to assume supervisory and training responsibility for five outlying branch libraries. This realignment of supervisory duties should result in better communication between branch libraries and the Anchorage office. As funds permit, the supervising librarians will schedule regular trips to the branch libraries under their supervision.

Several projects were initiated at the Anchorage law library. The staff are directing the filming and duplication of supreme and appellate court briefs. This program had been administered previously by the university library. Anchorage staff have also engaged in a cooperative project with law librarians from the University of California at Davis to evaluate systems and services of the Alaska law libraries and to plan for future growth and development.

Aimee Ruzicka
State Law Librarian

During FY 1983 the Anchorage reference staff participated in an experiment using telefacsimile equipment for rapid document transmittals. This project is continuing into FY 1984. Staff at the University of Washington are evaluating the impact of the use of this equipment on interlibrary loan systems.

FY 1983 Capital Improvements

The Alaska Court System maintains court facilities in 57 locations across the state. These facilities range in size and suitability from multimillion dollar court complexes in metropolitan areas to facilities in some rural locations consisting of only one small office. Each year, the court system attempts to upgrade its court facilities by building or leasing new or improved court facilities and by remodeling existing structures. During FY 83, a few facility improvement projects were completed by the court system. Descriptions of these projects are given below. Also planning was started for projects to be completed in FY 84.

First Judicial District

Craig

In August 1982, the court system increased its space in the municipality building in Craig by approximately 150 square feet.

Juneau

Planning and design work is near completion for the remodeling of a courtroom to provide for a 14-person jury box and easy access to the adjacent jury room. This remodeling project is scheduled for completion in FY 84.

Kake

In September 1982, the court system increased its space in the community building in Kake by approximately 100 square feet.

Ketchikan

In June 1983, remodeling was completed in a courtroom to provide adequate jury space for superior court trials.

All design work is complete to provide soundproofing for 16 main entry doors to the four courtrooms. Materials have been procured and delivered on site. This remodeling is scheduled for completion early in FY 84. This work will be done in cooperation with the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Division of Maintenance and Operations.

Petersburg

Planning and design efforts began with the City of Petersburg for the development of a new public safety facility which will include adequate space for superior court operations.

Wrangell

Planning and design efforts began with the City of Wrangell for the development of a new public safety building which will include adequate space for superior court operations.

Yakutat

Planning and design efforts began for the development of a court facility in Yakutat which will provide space for minimal superior court operations. Bid documents are scheduled for preparation in the fall of FY 1984.

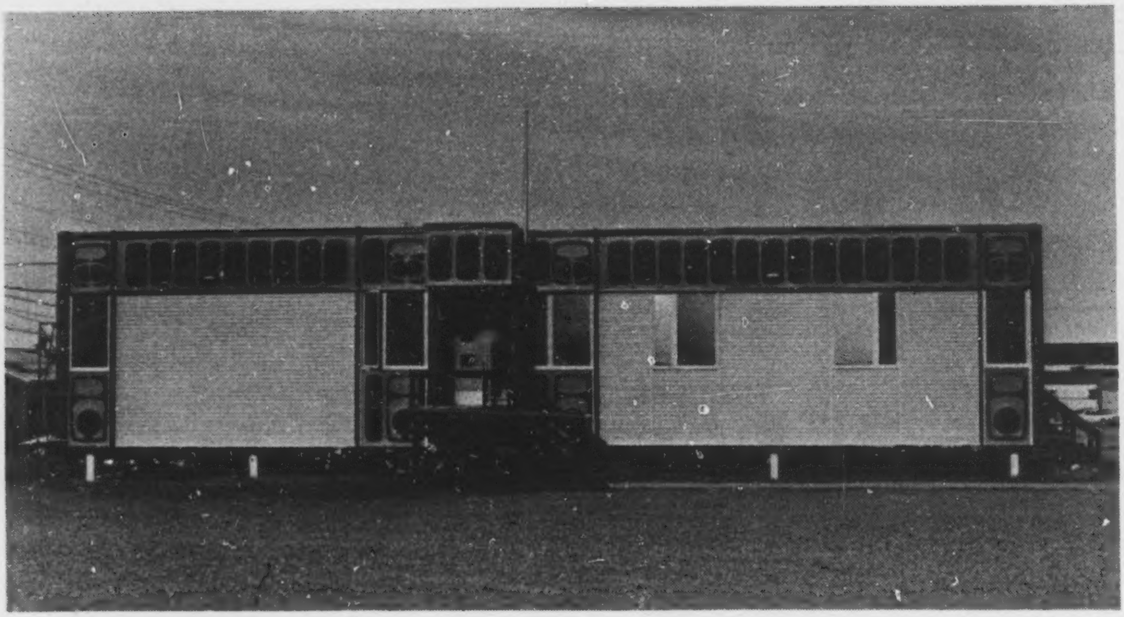
Gerry Dubie, Manager
Materiel Operations

Second Judicial District

Barrow

The court system completed negotiations to increase the space of its present leasehold by 2,280 square feet. Plans are being developed to provide for a grand jury/hearing room, a jury deliberation room, a magistrate's office, a witness/conference room, a judge's chambers, a secretary office, and two restrooms. Remodeling is scheduled to occur in the fall of FY 84.

Remodeling was completed to improve the heating system in the existing courtroom, clerk's office, judge's chambers and jury room. Also, minor remodeling was accomplished to provide for a secured evidence storage room and the electrical system was upgraded to provide for the installation of new data processing equipment.



Kotzebue Court Building

Emmonak

Planning and design work began with the City of Emmonak to develop a court facility in a new public safety building. The proposed space would provide for a 12-person jury trial courtroom, a jury deliberation/conference room and a magistrate's office. The building is planned to be completed late in FY 84.

Kotzebue

In February 1983, the remodeling of 1,500 square feet of space was substantially completed. This new space provided for the expansion needs of the clerk's office, a jury deliberation room that can be used for grand jury hearings, a small library and an office for the clerk of court/magistrate.

Nome

Minor remodeling was accomplished to relocate and redesign the public counter to provide for more efficient use of space in the clerk's office. Also, the electrical system was upgraded to provide for the installation of new data processing equipment. This work was done with the cooperation of the General Services Administration, U.S. Government who is the lessor.

Noorvik

In September 1982, the court system completed negotiations with the City of Noorvik for improved space in the new city building. The court system now has the use of 150 square feet of private office space for the magistrate and the use of a large multi-purpose room for court proceedings on an as-needed basis. The court system relocated in October

1982, from an area in the criminal justice facility which was shared with local law enforcement personnel.

Quinhagak

In April 1983, the court system entered into a lease for 144 square feet of private office space in the public safety building. This is the first court facility in the City of Quinhagak. The basic term is fourteen months with an option to renew for five additional one-year periods.

Selawik

In March 1983, the court system completed negotiations with the City of Selawik for improved space in the new combined facility building. The court system now has the use of a small soundproofed private office space for the magistrate and the use of a large assembly/conference room for court proceedings on an as-needed basis. The court system relocated in April from an area in the criminal justice facility which was shared with local law enforcement personnel.

Third Judicial District

Anchorage

In November 1982, the court system completed a major remodeling of approximately 23,000 square feet in the Anchorage courthouse complex. This project was organized in three phases and included the following:

Phase I

A. Remodeling approximately 1,500 square feet in the basement of the new building. This included the conversion of either jury sequestration rooms into five offices and three tape storage rooms to be used by the transcript section. A portion of the library stacks' 1,400 square feet was remodeled to provide for a research area

B. Remodeling of approximately 3,500 square feet on the first floor of the old building. This project provided for the long term needs of the traffic section, including an open-concept clerical space, a controlled-access public lobby with special public counters that provide for computer terminals, a secretary/in-court clerk's office and a traffic hearing room.

C. Remodeling of approximately 1,500 square feet on the second floor of the old building. This provided space for a grand jury facility which includes a hearing room designed for 24 jurors, a jury deliberation room with two toilets, a witness room, and a secured witness waiting room.

D. Remodeling of approximately 5,000 square feet on the fourth floor of the new building. This project developed two 12-person jury courtrooms with adequate spectator seating, a third 12-person jury courtroom specially designed for use by multi-party litigants in complex civil

Anchorage Court Building

proceedings, and a jury deliberation room with toilet facilities.

Phase II

A. Remodeling of approximately 2,600 square feet on the first floor of the old building. This expanded the coroner/public administrator's office, vital statistics section, and small claims section, including a deputy coroner's office, two public guardian offices, an accountant's office, remodeled clerical area with public counter, an improved evidence storage room, and an expanded small claims area which includes a public counter with public work surface area.

B. Remodeling of approximately 5,800 square feet on the fourth floor of the new building to provide space for two 12-person jury courtrooms with adequate spectator seating, two jury deliberation rooms with toilet facilities, three judge's chambers with private toilets, three secretary offices, two law clerk offices, and a secured reception area.

Phase III

A. Remodeling of approximately 800 square feet on the first floor of the old building to provide space for a multi-purpose hearing room, and a 6-person jury deliberation room.

8. Remodeling of approximately 144 square feet on the first floor of the new building to provide a private office for the deputy clerk.

This project also improved the security system in the complex by providing the following:

1. Silent electronic panic button alarms in all judges' chambers, all judges' secretary offices, all in-court clerk stations, all judges' benches, and all public counters.

2. An expanded security monitoring panel in the judicial service section of the state trooper area.

In June 1983, construction began in the remodeling of approximately 8,200 square feet in the Anchorage courthouse complex. When complete this project will provide one additional 12-person jury courtroom; two jury deliberation rooms with toilet facilities designed to accommodate the handicapped; one judge's chambers; a secretary's office; an improved reception/waiting area for the Juvenile Intake section including an area for secured records storage and a holding cell; a new hearing room for the probate department along with a public counter/reception area and all necessary support space including private offices for the probate master, the deputy probate master, the legal technician and adequate space for records storage; an auxiliary hearing/conference room; three additional offices to be used by public guardians; a private office for a family court magistrate; a media courtroom designed for members of the press and others who wish to use electronic equipment to record court proceedings; three secured reception areas on the second, third and fourth floors to control access into private hallways.

Cordova

Planning and design efforts began for the development of a court facility in Cordova. The existing space leased from the U.S. Postal Service is inadequate. Bid documents are scheduled for preparation in the fall of FY 84.

Kenai

In August 1982, the court system completed a remodeling of approximately 4,000 square feet in the Kenai courthouse. This project provided space for an additional 12-person jury courtroom, a jury deliberation room with toilet facilities, a judge's chambers with toilet facilities, a secretary/reception area, a law clerk office, a small storage room, a small conference room, and expansion of the clerk's office.

Also included in this project was the remodeling of space allotted to the department of law. This created four private offices, a storage room, clerical space, and a secretary/reception area.

Kodiak

In June 1983, the second phase of remodeling in the Kodiak courthouse was completed. This project included the remodeling of approximately 2,000 square feet of space on the second floor and provided for: an enlarged 12-person jury trial courtroom; a jury deliberation/multipurpose room with toilet facilities; a prisoner holding room; a public waiting area; a visiting judge's chambers; two conference rooms; and improved storage capability.

Naknek

Planning and design efforts were completed and remodeling begun in the Naknek courthouse in May 1983. Approximately 1,600 square feet of space located on the first floor of the Bristol Bay Borough Building will be remodeled to provide for: a small 12-person jury trial courtroom; a jury deliberation/conference room; a clerk's area with public counter; a soundproofed magistrate's office and a witness/conference room. This project is scheduled to be completed in the fall of FY 84.

Palmer

In November 1982, the clerk's office relocated its operations into approximately 1,300 square feet of remodeled space in the Palmer courthouse. This additional space provided for a public counter; a soundproofed private office for the clerk of court; and a central file storage area. The clerk's office was relocated to provide for a remodeled small superior court library and a remodeled magistrate's hearing room. These necessary provisions were a result of the appointment of a superior court judge in Palmer.

In April 1983, the court system increased its space by approximately 500 square feet for a needed jury deliberation room and an adjacent multiple-use office. These offices together could also be used for jury assembly.

Fourth Judicial District

Fairbanks

In October 1982, a remodeling of the clerk's office in the Fairbanks courthouse was completed. This project expanded the usable clerical area by removing a hallway and reconfiguring the entry area. Two soundproofed offices were constructed: one for the clerk of court and one for private conferences. New carpeting was installed throughout this area which is approximately 2,000 square feet.

Statistics

FOREWORD

During FY 1981, the administrative office conducted a review of the data collection, data processing and analyses procedures upon which annual reports have been based. It was the conclusion of this review that substantial changes should be made in these procedures. The FY 1981 annual report reflected these changes in that substantially less detailed case processing information was published.

The administrative office is continuing with a multi-year program to revise its data collection and data processing capabilities and procedures. The backbone of this program involves the implementation of several micro-processor based computers in local courts to support day-to-day operations in the court and simultaneously to provide all necessary statistical information to the administrative office. These computer systems are discussed in the special reports section of this annual report.

Computer systems will be installed over a two year transition period. Since a system must be operational for a full fiscal year before a complete year of automated caseload data is available, it will be at least three years before all caseload is fully automated for annual report purposes. During this transition period, significantly less detailed information will be published in the annual reports. The data will, however, be as consistent from year to year as is possible. However, some changes that will affect year-to-year comparability will occur. Two such changes affect this year's annual report. First, the case category formerly known as "other criminal" matters has been deleted from the report. These cases were typically composed of reopened criminal matters which had generally been reopened for the purpose of a hearing on a motion to revoke probation. Since they did not represent new criminal case filings a decision was made to no longer include them in case filing tables. Secondly, effective January 1, 1983 the Barrow superior court was transferred from the fourth judicial district to the second judicial district. In all multi-year tables in this annual report, prior year figures have been adjusted to reflect both of these changes. Hence, while data may not be directly comparable to the totals in prior year reports, adjusted multiple year comparison are available in this report.

As the transition to a new data collection and processing system is accomplished, the level of specificity that was contained in previous annual reports will be gradually reintroduced. Some lack of detailed data in this transition period is unfortunately inevitable.

This statistical supplement is designed primarily for research applications. It is comprised of six sections dealing with appellate and trial court statistics. Trial court statistics are comprised of superior court, higher volume district court and lower volume district court data.

Any reader with questions, comments or suggestions about this statistical supplement is encouraged to contact the:

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S - 74 Third Judicial District FY 82/83 Dispositions
S - 75 Fourth Judicial District FY 82/83 Filings
S - 75 Fourth Judicial District FY 82/83 Dispositions
S - 76 Bethel Service Area FY 82/83 Filings
S - 76 Bethel Service Area FY 82/83 Dispositions

SUPREME COURT

SUPREME COURT
SUMMARY OF FILINGS

FY 80/81-FY 82/83

TYPE OF CASE	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	FY 82/83	% INCREASE FY 80/81 to FY 82/83
Appeals:				
Civil	301	260	270	+4
* Criminal	31	36	93	+158
* Sentence	17	1	15	+1400
Petitions for Review	120	103	115	+12
Original Applications	24	16	19	+19
TOTAL	493	416	512	+23

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

SUPREME COURT
SUMMARY OF DISPOSITIONS

FY 80/81 - FY 82/83

TYPE OF CASE	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	FY 82/83	% INCREASE FY 80/81 to FY 82/83
Appeals:				
Civil	267	273	307	+12
* Criminal	240	26	83	+219
* Sentence	68	1	12	+1100
Petitions for Review	148	102	118	+16
Original Applications	22	20	18	-10
TOTAL	745	422	538	+27

*Now handled by Court of Appeals

SUPREME COURT
DISPOSITIONS BY TYPE OF DISPOSITION

FY 82/83

TYPE OF CASE	DISPOSITION BY		TOTAL
	MERIT	NOT ON MERIT	
Appeals:			
Civil	214	93	307
* Criminal	7	76	83
* Sentence	2	10	12
Petitions for Review	10	108	118
Original Applications	8	10	18
TOTAL	241	297	538
% OF TOTAL	45%	55%	100%

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

SUPREME COURT
CASES PENDING AS OF JUNE 30, 1983

TYPE OF CASE	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	FY 82/83	% INCREASE FY80/81 to FY82/83
Appeals:				
Civil	366	353	316	-10
* Criminal	13	23	33	+43
* Sentence	1	1	4	+300
Petitions for Review	28	29	26	-10
Original Applications	10	6	7	+17
TOTAL	418	412	386	-4

*Now handled by court of Appeals

SUPREME COURT
REASON FOR CASES PENDING

JUNE 30, 1983

TYPE OF CASE	CASE AWAITING							STAYED	TOTAL
	DRAFT OPINION CIRCULATING	AWAITING DRAFT OPINION	RECORDS	BRIEFS	ARGU-MENT	DECISION	MANDATE		
Appeals:									
Civil	72	45	62	70	41	0	9	17	316
Criminal	8	1	0	9	3	10	0	2	33
Sentence	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	4
Petitions for Review	3	0	0	4	5	14	0	0	26
Original Applications	1	2	0	1	1	2	0	0	7
TOTAL	84	48	62	86	50	28	9	19	386
% OF TOTAL	22%	13%	16%	22%	13%	7%	2%	5%	100%

COURT OF APPEALS

COURT OF APPEALS
SUMMARY OF FILINGS

FY 80/81 - FY 82/83

TYPE OF CASE	FY 80/81*	FY 81/82	FY 82/83	% INCREASE FY 81/82 to FY 82/83
Appeals:				
Merit	304	249	339	+36
Sentence	72	117	166	+42
Petitions for Review	58	78	73	-6
Original Applications	5	12	3	-75
TOTAL	439	456	581	+27

*September 1980 - June 1981
Fiscal Year July 1 - June 30

COURT OF APPEALS
SUMMARY OF DISPOSITIONS

TYPE OF CASE	FY 80/81*	FY 81/82	FY 82/83	% INCREASE FY 81/82 to FY 82/83
Appeals:				
Merit	49	174	347	+99
Sentence	25	63	171	+171
Petitions for Review	40	79	72	-9
Original Applications	4	12	4	-67
TOTAL	118	328	594	+81

*September 1980 - June 1981

COURT OF APPEALS
DISPOSITIONS BY TYPE OF DISPOSITION

FY 82/83

TYPE OF CASE	DISPOSITION BY		TOTAL
	MERITS	NOT ON MERITS	
Appeals:			
Merit	301	46	347
Sentence	148	23	171
Petitions for Review	16	56	72
Original Applications	1	3	4
TOTAL	466	128	594
% OF TOTAL	78%	22%	100%

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

COURT OF APPEALS
CASES PENDING AS OF June 30, 1983

TYPE OF CASE	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	FY 82/83	% INCREASE
Appeals:				
Merit	255	330	322	-2%
Sentence	47	101	96	-5%
Petitions for Review	18	17	18	+6
Original Applications	1	1	—	—
TOTAL	321	449	436	-3%

COURT OF APPEALS
REASON FOR CASES PENDING

JUNE 30, 1983

TYPE OF CASE	CASE AWAITING							STAYED AND/OR REMAND	TOTAL
	DRAFT DISPOSITION CIRCULATING	AWAITING DRAFT DISPOSITION	RECORDS	BRIEFS	SUBMISSION	DECISION	MANDATE		
Appeals:									
Merit	24	74	62	108	27	0	13	14	322
Sentence	15	29	14	21	7	0	2	8	96
Petitions for Review	3	4	2	5	1	2	0	1	18
Original Applications	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	42	107	78	134	35	2	15	23	436
% OF TOTAL	10%	24%	18%	31%	8%	1%	3%	5%	100%

STATEWIDE TRIAL COURT

ALASKA POPULATION

LOCATION	POPULATION			% INCREASE 1980 TO 1982	% OF STATE-WIDE TOTAL
	1980 CENSUS	1982* ESTIMATE	INCREASE		
Anchorage	173,017	200,503	27,486	16%	43.5
Barrow	4,199	4,849	650	15%	1.1
Bethel	13,354	13,767	413	3%	2.9
Delta Junction	3,974	4,240	266	7%	.9
Fairbanks	53,983	59,222	5,239	10%	12.9
Glenallen	501	567	66	13%	.1
Haines	1,680	1,854	174	10%	.4
Homer	2,209	2,900	691	31%	.6
Juneau	19,528	22,030	2,502	13%	4.8
Kenai	19,785	27,014	7,229	37%	5.9
Ketchikan	11,316	12,432	1,116	10%	2.7
Kotzebue	3,478	3,665	187	5%	.8
Kodiak	9,939	12,714	2,775	28%	2.8
Nome	5,229	5,967	738	14%	1.3
Palmer	17,766	25,212	7,446	42%	5.5
Seward	2,809	1,839	-970	-35%	.4
Sitka	7,803	8,223	420	5%	1.8
Tok	1,702	1,816	114	6%	.4
Valdez	5,408	6,111	703	13%	1.3
Wrangell	2,363	2,545	182	8%	.6
Petersburg	3,249	3,522	273	8%	.8
Other (Low Volume)	37,095	39,845	2,750	7%	8.6
TOTAL	400,481	460,837	60,356	15%	100%

* Alaska Population Overview 1982 Alaska Dept of Labor

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	53,794	59,201	5,407	10%	12.8
Second	15,567	17,398	1,831	12%	3.8
Third	247,830	294,863	47,033	19%	63.9
Fourth	83,290	89,375	6,085	7%	19.3

ALASKA COURTS

DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION, POLICEMEN AND LAWYERS

LOCATION	POPULATION	* TOTAL NUMBER POLICEMEN	POLICE PER THOUSAND POPULATION 3÷2X1000	◎ TOTAL NUMBER LAWYERS	LAWYERS PER THOUSAND POPULATION 5÷2X1000
Anchorage	200,503	300	1.5	1,061	5.3
Barrow	4,849	34	7.0	12	2.5
Bethel	13,767	35	2.5	17	1.2
Delta Junction	5,450	3	.6	0	—
Fairbanks	59,222	92	1.6	161	2.7
Glennallen	567	5	8.8	0	—
Haines	1,854	6	3.2	1	.5
Homer	2,900	8	2.8	6	2.1
Juneau	22,030	34	1.5	179	8.1
Kenai	27,014	31	1.1	32	1.2
Ketchikan	12,432	38	3.1	35	2.8
Kotzebue	3,665	15	4.1	7	1.9
Kodiak	12,714	32	2.5	21	1.7
Nome	5,967	13	2.2	8	1.3
Palmer	25,212	27	1.1	28	1.1
Petersberg	3,522	9	2.6	1	.3
Seward	1,839	13	7.1	2	1.1
Sitka	8,223	15	1.8	14	1.7
Tok	606	7	11.6	0	—
Valdez	6,111	15	2.5	4	.7
Wrangell	2,545	7	2.8	3	1.2
Total	420,992	739	1.8	1,592	3.8

* CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY DEPT OF LAW

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

◎ ALASKA BAR ROSTER 9/9/83

First	50,606	109	2.2	233	4.6
Second	14,481	62	4.3	27	1.9
Third	276,860	431	1.6	1,154	4.2
Fourth	79,045	137	1.7	178	2.3

ALASKA COURTS
AUTHORIZED JUDICIAL POSITIONS
JUNE 30, 1983

LOCATION	SUPERIOR COURT	DISTRICT COURT	MAGI-STRATES	MASTERS	TOTAL	% OF STATEWIDE TOTAL
Anchorage	10	7	5	5	27	25.9
Barrow	1		1		2	1.9
Bethel	1		1		2	1.9
Delta Junction			1		1	.9
Fairbanks	4	4	2		10	9.6
Glenallen			1		1	.9
Haines			1		1	.9
Homer		1			1	.9
Juneau	2	1			3	2.9
Kenai	1		1		2	1.9
Ketchikan	1	1			2	1.9
Kotzebue	1		1		2	1.9
Kodiak	1		1		2	1.9
Nome	1		1		2	1.9
Palmer	1		1		2	1.9
Seward			1		1	.9
Sitka	1		1		2	1.9
Tok			1		1	.9
Valdez		1			1	.9
Wrangell	1		1		2	1.9
Petersburg			1		1	.9
Other (Low Volume)			36		36	34.6
TOTAL	26	15	58	5	104	100

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	5	2	10	0	17	16.3
Second	3	0	12	0	15	14.4
Third	13	9	19	5	46	44.2
Fourth	5	4	17	0	26	25.0

ALASKA COURTS
AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL POSITIONS
AS OF JUNE 30, 1983

LOCATION	POSITIONS BY RANGE					% OF STATEWIDE TOTAL
	BELOW 10	10 THROUGH 12	13 THROUGH 16	OVER 16	TOTAL	
Anchorage	38	92	32	8	170	45.9
Barrow	4	2			6	1.6
Bethel	2	3	1	0	6	1.6
Delta Junction	1				1	.3
Fairbanks	11	48	10	5	74	20.0
Glenallen	1	1			2	.5
Haines		1			1	.3
Homer	1	1	1		3	.8
Juneau	3	11	5	1	20	5.4
Kenai	3	8	2	1	14	3.8
Ketchikan	0	9	3	2	14	3.8
Kotzebue	2	2	1		5	1.4
Kodiak	3	4	2		9	2.4
Nome	1	4	1		6	1.6
Palmer	2	4	1	1	8	2.2
Seward	1	1			2	.5
Sitka	2	3	1	1	7	1.9
Tok		1			1	.3
Valdez	1	2			3	.8
Wrangell	1	1			2	.5
Petersburg	1	1			2	.5
Other (Low Volume)	10	4			14	3.8
TOTAL	88	203	60	19	370	100%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	10	26	9	4	49	13.2
Second	7	8	2	0	17	4.6
Third	53	116	38	10	217	58.6
Fourth	18	53	11	5	87	23.5

ALASKA COURTS
OPERATING COSTS
(THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)
FY 83

LOCATION	PERSONNEL	OTHER	TOTAL	% OF STATEWIDE TOTAL	DOLLAR COST PER CASE FILED	
					ALL FILINGS	LESS TRAFFIC FILINGS
Anchorage	8,203.7	2,256.9	10,460.6	39.0	139	396
Barrow	301.3	322.7	624.0	2.3	1,118	1,169
Bethel	420.8	433.2	854.0	3.2	504	709
Delta Junction	58.7	22.9	81.6	0.3	100	334
Fairbanks	4,005.9	1,182.0	5,187.9	19.4	209	582
Glenallen	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	——	——
Haines	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	——	——
Homer	233.6	122.2	355.8	1.3	128	308
Juneau	1,083.0	326.9	1,409.9	5.3	230	320
Kenai	803.9	224.5	1,028.4	3.8	130	332
Ketchikan	711.7	249.7	961.4	3.6	230	397
Kotzebue	393.1	100.3	493.4	1.8	396	481
Kodiak	484.1	142.4	626.5	2.3	167	314
Nome	458.1	199.0	657.1	2.5	622	769
Palmer	382.1	222.7	604.8	2.3	76	230
Seward	119.6	21.8	141.4	0.5	54	219
Sitka	402.5	89.1	491.6	1.8	183	383
Tok	82.1	77.4	159.5	0.6	201	667
Valdez	231.6	32.6	264.2	1.0	256	507
Wrangell	223.7	58.7	282.4	1.1	426	564
Petersburg	74.2	47.3	121.5	0.5	223	383
Other (Low Volume)	1,266.6	729.1	1,995.7	7.4	485	643
TOTAL	19,940.3	6,861.4	26,801.7	100.0	179	430

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	2,745.3	851.6	3,596.9	13.4	238	373
Second	1,312.4	669.5	1,981.9	7.4	594	686
Third	10,962.2	3,454.6	14,416.8	53.8	139	374
Fourth	4,920.4	1,885.7	6,806.1	25.4	234	611

ALASKA COURTS
DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION, COSTS AND JUDGES

FY 83

LOCATION	PERCENTAGE OF STATEWIDE				
	POPULATION	OPERATING COSTS	FTE JUDGES	CASE FILINGS	CASE DISPOSITION
Anchorage	43.5	39.0	25.9	49.6	50.0
Barrow	1.1	2.3	1.9	.4	.3
Bethel	2.9	3.2	1.9	1.1	1.2
Delta Junction	1.2	0.3	.9	.5	.5
Fairbanks	12.9	19.4	9.6	16.4	16.8
Glenallen	.1	N/A	.9	.5	.5
Haines	.4	N/A	.9	.1	.1
Homer	.6	1.3	.9	1.8	1.8
Juneau	4.8	5.3	2.9	4.0	3.6
Kenai	5.9	3.8	1.9	5.2	5.2
Ketchikan	2.7	3.6	1.9	2.8	2.5
Kotzebue	.8	1.8	1.9	.8	.9
Kodiak	2.8	2.3	1.9	2.5	2.4
Nome	1.3	2.5	1.9	.7	.7
Palmer	5.5	2.3	1.9	5.1	5.2
Seward	.4	0.5	.9	1.7	1.8
Sitka	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.8
Tok	.1	0.6	.9	.5	.5
Valdez	1.3	1.0	.9	.7	.7
Wrangell	.6	1.1	1.9	.4	.4
Petersburg	.8	0.5	.9	.4	.3
Other (Low Volume)	8.6	7.4	34.6	2.8	2.8
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	12.8	13.4	16.3	9.9	9.3
Second	3.8	7.4	14.4	1.8	1.8
Third	63.9	53.8	44.2	68.7	68.9
Fourth	19.3	25.4	25.0	19.5	19.9

ALASKA COURTS
FILINGS

FY 82/83

LOCATION	SUPERIOR COURT	DISTRICT COURT	TOTAL	% OF STATEWIDE TOTAL	FILINGS PER JUDGE
Anchorage	9,960	65,272	75,232	49.6%	2,786
Barrow	189	369	558	.4	279
Bethel	444	1,250	1,694	1.1	847
Delta Junction		820	820	.5	820
Fairbanks	3,138	21,668	24,806	16.4	2,481
Glenallen		700	700	.5	700
Haines		213	213	.1	213
Homer		2,782	2,782	1.8	2,782
Juneau	1,022	5,102	6,124	4.0	2,041
Kenai	819	7,090	7,909	5.2	3,955
Ketchikan	740	3,443	4,183	2.8	2,092
Kotzebue	242	1,003	1,245	.8	622
Kodiak	452	3,307	3,759	2.5	1,880
Nome	345	712	1,057	.7	528
Palmer	501	7,298	7,799	5.1	3,899
Seward		2,622	2,622	1.7	2,622
Sitka	350	2,337	2,687	1.8	1,344
Tok		795	795	.5	795
Valdez		1,034	1,034	.7	1,034
Wrangell	*162	501	663	.4	331
Petersburg		545	545	.4	545
Other (Low Volume)		4,313	4,313	2.8	120
TOTAL	18,364	133,176	151,540	100%	1,457

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	2,274	12,835	15,109	10%	889
Second	776	2,559	3,335	2%	222
Third	11,732	92,324	104,056	69%	2,262
Fourth	3,582	25,458	29,040	19%	1,117

* Wrangell/Petersburg

ALASKA COURTS DISPOSITIONS

FY 82/83

LOCATION	SUPERIOR COURT	DISTRICT COURT	TOTAL	% OF STATEWIDE TOTAL	DISPOSITIONS PER FTE JUDGE
Anchorage	8,086	64,434	72,520	50%	2,686
Barrow	104	387	491	.3	246
Bethel	436	1,302	1,738	1.2	869
Delta Junction		752	752	.5	752
Fairbanks	2,639	21,734	24,373	16.8	2,437
Glenallen		739	739	.5	739
Haines		168	168	.1	168
Homer		2,659	2,659	1.8	2,659
Juneau	721	4,522	5,243	3.6	1,748
Kenai	623	6,894	7,517	5.2	3,759
Ketchikan	500	3,179	3,679	2.5	1,840
Kotzebue	208	1,055	1,263	.9	632
Kodiak	317	3,120	3,437	2.4	1,719
Nome	288	715	1,003	.7	502
Palmer	291	7,241	7,532	5.2	3,766
Seward		2,592	2,592	1.8	2,592
Sitka	290	2,377	2,667	1.8	1,334
Tok		757	757	.5	757
Valdez		947	947	.7	947
Wrangell	*67	522	589	.4	295
Petersburg		420	420	.3	420
Other (Low Volume)		3,997	3,997	2.8	111
TOTAL	14,570	130,513	145,083	100%	1,395

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	1,578	11,893	13,471	9%	792
Second	600	2,607	3,207	2%	214
Third	9,317	90,627	99,944	69%	2,173
Fourth	3,075	25,386	28,461	20%	1,095

* Wrangell/Petersburg

Superior

SUPERIOR COURT

Superior Court - Caseload FY 1983

FY 1983 statistics reflect a 7% increase in superior court caseloads from 1982. This percentage change in workload was not uniform across the state. All but three superior court sites reported significant (+10% or higher) increases in caseload during FY 1983. Anchorage and Ketchikan, which reported decreases of -4% and -1% respectively, were the only superior court sites to report a decrease in case filings. Because of the volume of cases handled by the Anchorage court, its minimal decrease in filings lowered the statewide average change in case filings. Excluding Anchorage case filings, the superior courts of the state averaged a 24% increase in case filings during FY 1983.

Over half of the superior court sites reported a net decrease in the number of cases disposed of during FY 1983 in comparison with FY 1982. Bethel, Fairbanks, Kotzebue and Sitka reported significant increases in case dispositions. Statewide, there was a 1% increase in superior court dispositions. The increased filings (outside of Anchorage) in conjunction with the decrease in dispositions indicate that the superior courts are beginning to build an inventory of pending cases which will have to be handled in subsequent years.

Felony Cases

Felony case filings increased by 22% over FY 1982. All superior court sites except Ketchikan and Nome (which reported 14% and 20% fewer filings respectively), reported increases in felony case filings. Seven of the state's 13 superior courts reported felony case filing increases in excess of 20%. For the second year, over half (58%) of all felony cases filed contained a primary charge involving either violence or drugs. In prior years, property-related offenses have represented over half of all felony filings.

Domestic Relations Cases

Domestic relations case filings increased by 4% over FY 1982. During FY 1982 there were significant increases in both reciprocal child support and domestic violence case filings. The sharp rate of increase in these cases leveled off in FY 1983, but the increased level of filing of these types of cases evidenced in FY 1982 remained in FY 1983.

Statewide dispositions of domestic relations cases increased by 5% in FY 1983. Bethel, Fairbanks, Kodiak, Nome and Sitka reported significant increases in domestic relations case dispositions during FY 1983.

Probate Cases

Case filings in probate matters decreased by 4% over FY 1982 levels. This figure is probably somewhat misleading in that all courts except Anchorage reported significant increases (+10% or higher) in probate case filings. Anchorage failed to report an unknown number of adoption and sanity cases. Therefore, the

Anchorage court may have actually had a smaller decrease in probate filings than its reported -26%. Given the volume of cases represented by Anchorage's questionable probate statistics, accurate conclusions cannot be drawn about the overall statewide changes in specific types of cases within the category of general probate cases. If Anchorage case reporting had been complete, it is quite likely that there would have been a significant increase in the statewide probate filing statistics.

On a statewide basis, probate case dispositions showed a 20% decrease in FY 1983. This figure is no doubt also due to the incomplete reporting of probate matters in the Anchorage court.

Other Civil Matters

Other civil case filings (civil damages, administrative review, contracts and notes, housing and real estate matters) increased 8% in FY 1983. Barrow, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai, Kodiak and Kotzebue reported significant increases (+10% or higher) in other civil case filings during FY 1983. No court reported a significant decrease in filings.

Other civil case dispositions decreased by 8% in FY 1983. This is the second year that dispositions have decreased in this case category. As was the case last year, the statewide decrease in dispositions is probably the result of a significant decrease (-18%) in other civil case dispositions in the Anchorage court.

Children's Matters

Filings of children's matters in superior courts increased by 18% in FY 1983. All but three courts reported significant changes (+/-10%) in children's matters filings, with six courts reporting significant increases and four courts reporting significant decreases. This year's overall increase in filings follows three years of minimal annual declines in children's matters filings.

Reported children's matters dispositions decreased by 2% in FY 1983. This is the fourth year that dispositions in children's matters have decreased. Fairbanks (-55%), Ketchikan (-68%) and Kodiak (-44%) reported significant decreases in dispositions in children's matters.

SUPERIOR COURTS
SUMMARY OF FILINGS BY COURT

1979 - FY 82/83

COURT	1979	FY80/81	FY81/82	FY82/83	% INCREASE 1979 to FY 82/83	% INCREASE FY 81/82 to FY 82/83
Anchorage	7,383	7,528	10,394	9,960	+35	-4
Barrow	103	82	185	189	+83	+2
Bethel	305	361	355	444	+46	+25
Fairbanks	2,478	2,471	2,782	3,138	+27	+13
Juneau	662	836	925	1,022	+54	+10
Kenai	607	658	692	819	+35	+18
Ketchikan	524	690	746	740	+41	-1
Kodiak	444	398	337	452	+2	+34
Kotzebue	——	223	184	242	+9	+32
Nome	298	391	279	345	+16	+24
*Palmer	——	——	——	501	——	——
Sitka	305	315	289	350	+15	+21
*Wrangell/ Petersburg	——	——	——	162	——	——
TOTAL	13,109	13,953	17,168	18,364	+40	+7

1979 CALENDAR YEAR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	1,491	1,841	1,960	2,274	+53	+16
Second	401	696	648	776	+93	+20
Third	8,434	8,584	11,423	11,732	+39	+3
Fourth	2,783	2,832	3,137	3,582	+29	+14

* SUPERIOR COURTS CREATED 7/1/82

SUPERIOR COURTS
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS

FY 82/83

COURT	CRIMINAL		CIVIL			CHILDREN'S MATTERS	TOTAL
	FELONY	OTHER	PROBATE	DOMESTIC RELATIONS	OTHER		
Anchorage	583		1,356	4,917	2,511	593	9,960
Barrow	54		15	65	35	20	189
Bethel	99		65	160	35	85	444
Fairbanks	391		521	1,333	656	237	3,138
Juneau	110		121	465	275	51	1,022
Kenai	100		81	354	203	81	819
Ketchikan	72		92	321	92	163	740
Kodiak	58		54	217	107	16	452
Kotzebue	43		42	82	32	43	242
Nome	48		75	93	36	93	345
*Palmer	12		58	314	92	25	501
Sitka	11		80	145	49	65	350
*Wrangell/ Petersburg	26		16	80	15	25	162
TOTAL	1,607		2,576	8,546	4,138	1,497	18,364
% OF TOTAL	9%		14%	47%	22%	8%	100%

FISCAL YEAR
JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	219		309	1,011	431	304	2,274
Second	145		132	240	103	156	776
Third	753		1,549	5,802	2,913	715	11,732
Fourth	490		586	1,493	691	322	3,582

* SUPERIOR CORTS CREATED 7/1/82

SUPERIOR COURTS
SUMMARY OF DISPOSITIONS

1979 - FY 82/83

COURT	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	FY 82/83	% INCREASE	
					1979 to FY 82/83	FY 81/82 to FY 82/83
Anchorage	6,599	8,413	8,888	8,086	+23	-9
Barrow	72	37	130	104	+44	-20
Bethel	249	267	335	436	+75	+30
Fairbanks	2,519	2,116	2,284	2,639	+5	+16
Juneau	579	642	755	721	+25	-5
Kenai	547	601	661	623	+14	-6
Ketchikan	582	535	625	500	-14	-20
Kodiak	394	368	307	317	-20	+3
Kotzebue	—	75	187	208	—	+11
Nome	239	373	295	288	+21	-2
*Palmer	—	—	—	291	—	—
Sitka	254	192	213	290	+14	+36
*Wrangell/ Petersburg	—	—	—	67	—	—
TOTAL	12,034	13,619	14,680	14,570	+21	-1

Calendar Year 1979 FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	1,415	1,369	1,593	1,578	+12	-1
Second	311	485	612	600	+93	-2
Third	7,540	9,382	9,856	9,317	+24	-5
Fourth	2,768	2,383	2,619	3,075	+11	+17

* SUPERIOR COURTS CREATED 7/1/82

SUPERIOR COURTS FELONY CASES FILINGS

1979 - FY 82/83

COURT	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	FY 82/83	% INCREASE 1979 to FY 82/83	% INCREASE FY 81/82 to FY 82/83
Anchorage	281	413	480	583	+107	+21
Barrow	13	22	34	54	+315	+59
Bethel	47	86	91	99	+111	+9
Fairbanks	133	240	324	391	+194	+21
Juneau	31	50	79	110	+255	+39
Kenai	51	81	95	100	+96	+5
Ketchikan	46	107	84	72	+57	-14
Kodiak	46	58	45	58	+26	+29
Kotzebue	—	39	20	43	—	+115
Nome	31	90	60	48	+55	-20
*Palmer	—	—	—	12	—	—
Sitka	12	8	5	11	-8	+120
*Wrangell/ Petersburg	—	—	—	26	—	—
TOTAL	691	1,194	1,317	1,607	+133	+22

Calendar Year 1979 FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	89	165	168	219	+146	+30
Second	44	151	114	145	+229	+27
Third	378	552	620	753	+99	+21
Fourth	180	326	415	490	+172	+18

* SUPERIOR COURTS CREATED 7/1/82

SUPERIOR COURTS
FELONY CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS

FY 82/83

COURT	CASE TYPE					TOTAL
	VIOLENT	PROPERTY	FRAUD/ FORGERY	DRUGS	OTHER	
Anchorage	185	186	39	130	43	583
Barrow	28	20	0	6	0	54
Bethel	58	22	1	17	1	99
Fairbanks	139	146	22	68	16	391
Juneau	47	30	12	16	5	110
Kenai	21	38	2	28	11	100
Ketchikan	22	10	1	33	6	72
Kodiak	20	10	2	20	6	58
Kotzebue	29	9	1	1	3	43
Nome	32	5	1	7	3	48
Palmer	5	2	3	2	0	12
Sitka	5	5	1	0	0	11
Wrangell/ Petersburg	5	6	0	14	1	26
TOTAL	596	489	85	342	95	1,607
% OF TOTAL	37%	31%	5%	21%	6%	100%

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	79	51	14	63	12	219
Second	89	34	2	14	6	145
Third	231	236	46	180	60	753
Fourth	197	168	23	85	17	490

SUPERIOR COURTS
FELONY CASES
DISPOSITIONS
1979 - FY82/83

COURT	1979	FY80/81	FY81/82	FY82/83	% INCREASE	
					1979 to FY 82/83	FY 81/82 to FY 82/83
Anchorage	315	269	532	628	+99	+18
Barrow	13	8	39	44	+238	+13
Bethel	42	53	87	106	+152	+22
Fairbanks	122	142	199	362	+197	+82
Juneau	54	50	71	76	+41	+7
Kenai	54	63	117	82	+52	-30
Ketchikan	66	72	48	65	-2	+35
Kodiak	43	53	61	53	+23	-13
Kotzebue	—	16	25	44	—	+76
Nome	32	74	70	40	+25	-43
*Palmer	—	—	—	9	—	—
Sitka	10	2	5	14	+40	+180
*Wrangell/ Petersburg	—	—	—	6	—	—
TOTAL	751	802	1,254	1,529	+104	+22

Calendar Year 1979   FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	130	124	124	161	+24	+30
Second	45	98	134	128	+184	-4
Third	412	385	710	772	+87	+9
Fourth	164	195	286	468	+185	+64

* SUPERIOR COURTS CREATED 7/1/82

SUPERIOR COURTS
PROBATE CASES
FILINGS

1979 FY 82/83

COURT	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	FY 82/83	% INCREASE	
					1979 to FY 82/83	FY 81/82 to FY 82/83
ⓐ Anchorage	999	777	1,833	1,356	+36	-26
Barrow	20	3	15	15	-25	——
Bethel	46	45	43	65	+41	+51
Fairbanks	321	341	389	521	+62	+34
Juneau	72	105	118	121	+68	+3
Kenai	65	61	49	81	+25	+65
Ketchikan	66	85	84	92	+39	+10
Kodiak	56	45	36	54	-4	+50
Kotzebue	——	64	13	42	——	+215
Nome	57	65	64	75	+32	+17
*Palmer	——	——	——	58	——	——
Sitka	46	79	51	80	+74	+57
*Wrangell/ Petersburg	——	——	——	16	——	——
TOTAL	1,748	1,670	2,695	2,576	+47	-4

Calendar Year 1979 FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

ⓐ Anchorage has not been reporting all Adoption & Sanity Cases

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	184	269	253	309	+68	+22
Second	77	132	92	132	+71	+43
Third	1,120	883	1,918	1,549	+38	-19
Fourth	376	386	432	586	+60	+36

* SUPERIOR COURTS CREATED 7/1/82

SUPERIOR COURTS
PROBATE CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS

FY 82/83

COURT	CASE TYPE							TOTAL
	ADOPTION	ESTATES	SANITY	GUARDIANSHIP	PROBATE WAIVER	PROTECTIVE	OTHER	
Anchorage	287	446	396	63	60	74	30	1,356
Barrow	9	3	0	1	0	2	0	15
Bethel	35	22	6	2	0	0	0	65
Fairbanks	153	199	106	1	0	53	9	521
Juneau	28	55	21	1	0	10	6	121
Kenai	32	31	10	2	0	5	1	81
Ketchikan	22	48	12	0	0	7	3	92
Kodiak	13	18	8	2	0	13	0	54
Kotzebue	25	10	5	0	0	0	2	42
Nome	19	20	32	1	0	2	1	75
Palmer	21	32	1	0	0	4	0	58
Sitka	17	33	5	2	2	2	19	80
Wrangell/ Petersburg	8	3	5	0	0	0	0	16
TOTAL	669	920	607	75	62	172	71	2,576
% OF TOTAL	26%	36%	23%	3%	2%	7%	3%	100%

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	75	139	43	3	2	19	28	309
Second	53	33	37	2	0	4	3	132
Third	353	527	415	67	60	96	31	1,549
Fourth	188	221	112	3	0	53	9	586

SUPERIOR COURTS
PROBATE CASES
DISPOSITIONS

1979 - FY82/83

COURT	1979	FY80/81	FY81/82	FY82/83	% INCREASE 1979 to FY82/83	% INCREASE FY81/82 to FY82/83
@Anchorage	956	392	1,679	1,076	+13	-36
Barrow	18	1	10	4	-78	-60
Bethel	29	41	42	42	+45	—
Fairbanks	333	282	321	392	+18	+22
Juneau	51	62	60	90	+76	+50
Kenai	38	40	41	40	+5	-2
Ketchikan	53	55	67	70	+32	+4
Kodiak	38	24	27	25	-34	-7
Kotzebue	—	8	21	23	—	+10
Nome	34	85	79	58	+71	-27
*Palmer	—	—	—	15	—	—
Sitka	61	41	27	58	-5	+115
*Wrangell/ Petersburg	—	—	—	11	—	—
TOTAL	1,611	1,031	2,374	1,904	+18	-20

Calendar Year 1979 FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

@Anchorage has not been reporting all Adoption & Sanity Cases

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	165	158	154	229	+39	+49
Second	52	94	110	85	+63	-23
Third	1,032	456	1,747	1,156	+12	-34
Fourth	362	323	363	434	+20	+20

* SUPERIOR COURTS CREATED 7/1/82

SUPERIOR COURTS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES
FILINGS

1979 - FY82/83

COURT	1979	FY80/81	FY81/82	FY82/83	% INCREASE 1979 to FY82/83	% INCREASE FY81/82 to FY82/83
Anchorage	3,155	3,737	5,180	4,917	+55	-5
Barrow	30	29	90	65	+117	-28
Bethel	63	127	117	160	+154	+37
Fairbanks	996	1,091	1,295	1,333	+34	+3
Juneau	312	401	416	465	+49	+12
Kenai	253	272	341	354	+40	+4
Ketchikan	232	263	355	321	+38	-10
Kodiak	200	204	158	217	+9	+37
Kotzebue	——	59	87	82	——	-6
Nome	74	106	81	93	+26	+15
*Palmer	——	——	——	314	——	——
Sitka	130	140	137	145	+12	+6
*Wrangell/ Petersburg	——	——	——	80	——	——
TOTAL	5,445	6,429	8,257	8,546	+57	+4

Calendar Year 1979   FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	674	804	908	1,011	+50	+11
Second	104	194	258	240	+131	-7
Third	3,608	4,213	5,679	5,802	+61	+2
Fourth	1,059	1,218	1,412	1,493	+41	+6

* SUPERIOR COURTS CREATED 7/1/82

SUPERIOR COURTS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS

FY 82/83

COURT	CASE TYPE					TOTAL
	DIVORCE	DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE	RECIPROCAL SUPPORT	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	OTHER	
Anchorage	1,008	1,596	1,230	914	169	4,917
Barrow	11	18	10	24	3	65
Bethel	16	33	53	58	0	160
Fairbanks	303	543	270	211	6	1,333
Juneau	112	167	95	90	1	465
Kenai	85	149	59	56	5	354
Ketchikan	69	97	79	69	7	321
Kodiak	77	58	36	43	2	217
Kotzebue	14	13	28	25	2	82
Nome	17	17	39	18	2	93
Palmer	73	134	66	34	7	314
Sitka	58	28	33	17	9	145
Wrangell/ Petersburg	24	39	9	8	0	80
TOTAL	1,867	2,892	2,007	1,567	213	8,546
% OF TOTAL	22%	34%	23%	18%	3%	100%

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	263	331	216	184	17	1,011
Second	42	48	77	67	7	240
Third	1,243	1,937	1,391	1,047	183	5,802
Fourth	319	576	323	269	6	1,493

SUPERIOR COURTS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES
DISPOSITIONS

1979 - FY82/83

COURT	1979	FY80/81	FY81/82	FY82/83	% INCREASE	
					1979 to FY82/83	FY81/82 to FY82/83
Anchorage	3,014	4,044	4,240	4,194	+39	-1
Barrow	15	15	70	44	+193	-37
Bethel	49	86	110	154	+214	+40
Fairbanks	1,030	976	1,110	1,298	+26	+17
Juneau	276	320	371	362	+31	-2
Kenai	224	275	276	280	+25	+1
Ketchikan	235	256	362	260	+11	-28
Kodiak	199	193	129	169	-15	+31
Kotzebue	——	17	76	70	——	-8
Nome	55	105	70	80	+45	+14
*Palmer	——	——	——	210	——	——
Sitka	120	100	126	156	+30	+24
*Wrangell/ Petersburg	——	——	——	37	——	——
TOTAL	5,217	6,387	6,940	7,314	+40	+5

Calendar Year 1979 FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	631	676	859	815	+29	-5
Second	70	137	216	194	+177	-10
Third	3,437	4,512	4,645	4,853	+41	+4
Fourth	1,079	1,062	1,220	1,452	+35	+19

*SUPERIOR COURTS CREATED 7/1/82

SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
FILINGS

1979 - FY 82/83

COURT	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	FY 82/83	% INCREASE	
					1979 to FY 82/83	FY 81/82 to FY 82/83
Anchorage	2,476	2,156	2,377	2,511	+1	+6
Barrow	6	4	23	35	+483	+52
Bethel	52	38	37	35	-33	-5
Fairbanks	726	516	568	656	-10	+15
Juneau	206	203	246	275	+33	+12
Kenai	134	134	126	203	+51	+61
Ketchikan	83	82	94	92	+11	-2
Kodiak	87	72	66	107	+23	+62
Kotzebue	——	29	13	32	——	+146
Nome	44	60	34	36	-18	+6
*Palmer	——	——	——	92	——	——
Sitka	59	52	45	49	-17	+9
*Wrangell/ Petersburg	——	——	——	15	——	——
TOTAL	3,873	3,346	3,629	4,138	+7	+14

Calendar Year 1979 FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	348	337	385	431	+24	+12
Second	50	93	70	103	+106	+47
Third	2,697	2,362	2,569	2,913	+8	+13
Fourth	778	554	605	691	-11	+14

* SUPERIOR COURTS CREATED 7/1/83

SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS

FY 82/83

COURT	CASE TYPE				TOTAL
	CIVIL DAMAGE	ADMINI-STRATIVE REVIEW	GENERAL	OTHER	
Anchorage	695	132	1,393	291	2,511
Barrow	11	2	9	13	35
Bethel	12	0	10	13	35
Fairbanks	115	15	255	271	656
Juneau	48	17	126	84	275
Kenai	66	2	91	44	203
Ketchikan	22	5	28	37	92
Kodiak	24	0	33	50	107
Kotzebue			5	27	32
Nome	7		13	16	36
Palmer	21	3	49	19	92
Sitka	16	0	10	23	49
Wrangell/ Petersburg	1	1	3	10	15
TOTAL	1,038	177	2,025	898	4,138
% OF TOTAL	25%	4%	49%	22%	100%

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	87	23	167	154	431
Second	18	2	27	56	103
Third	806	137	1,566	404	2,913
Fourth	127	15	265	284	691

SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
DISPOSITIONS

1979 - FY/82/83

COURT	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	FY 82/83	% INCREASE 1979 to FY 82/83	% INCREASE FY 81/82 to FY 82/83
Anchorage	1,759	3,329	2,019	1,745	-1	-14
Barrow	3	2	9	12	+300	+33
Bethel	35	12	23	40	+14	+74
Fairbanks	759	492	567	548	-28	-3
Juneau	163	151	216	155	-5	-28
Kenai	102	121	143	136	+33	-5
Ketchikan	70	52	75	82	+17	+9
Kodiak	50	74	65	56	+12	-14
Kotzebue	——	[illegible]	18	29	——	+61
Nome	58	74	26	42	-28	+62
*Palmer	——	——	——	37	——	——
Sitka	40	35	39	43	+8	+10
*Wrangell/ Petersburg	——	——	——	4	——	——
TOTAL	3,039	4,347	3,200	2,929	-4	-8

Calendar Year 1979 FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	273	238	330	284	+4	-14
Second	61	81	53	83	+36	+57
Third	1,911	3,524	2,227	1,974	+3	-11
Fourth	794	504	590	588	-26	——

* SUPERIOR COURTS CREATED 7/1/82

SUPERIOR COURTS
CHILDREN'S MATTERS
FILINGS

1979 - FY 82/83

COURT	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	FY 82/83	% INCREASE 1979 to FY 82/83	% INCREASE FY 81/82 to FY 82/83
Anchorage	472	445	524	593	+26	+13
Barrow	34	24	23	20	-41	-13
Bethel	97	65	67	85	-12	+27
Fairbanks	302	283	206	237	-22	+15
Juneau	41	77	66	51	+24	-23
Kenai	104	110	81	81	-22	—
Ketchikan	97	153	129	163	+68	+26
Kodiak	55	19	32	16	-71	-50
Kotzebue	—	32	51	43	—	-16
Nome	92	70	40	93	+1	+133
*Palmer	—	—	—	25	—	—
Sitka	58	36	51	65	+12	+27
*Wrangell/ Petersburg	—	—	—	25	—	—
TOTAL	1,352	1,314	1,270	1,497	+11	+18

Calendar Year 1979   FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	196	266	246	304	+55	+24
Second	126	126	114	156	+24	+37
Third	631	574	637	715	+13	+12
Fourth	399	348	273	322	-19	+18

* SUPERIOR COURTS CREATED 7/1/82

SUPERIOR COURTS
CHILDREN'S MATTERS
DISPOSITIONS

1979 - FY 82/83

COURT	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	FY 82/83	% INCREASE	
					1979 to FY 82/83	FY 81/82 to FY 82/83
Anchorage	337	379	418	443	+31	+6
Barrow	23	11	2	——	——	——
Bethel	84	75	73	94	+12	+29
Fairbanks	239	224	87	39	-84	-55
Juneau	27	59	37	38	+41	+3
Kenai	105	102	84	85	-19	+1
Ketchikan	152	100	73	23	-85	-68
Kodiak	45	24	25	14	-69	-44
Kotzebue	——	29	47	42	——	-11
Nome	52	35	50	68	+31	+36
*Palmer	——	——	——	20	——	——
Sitka	21	14	16	19	-10	+19
*Wrangell/ Petersburg	——	——	——	9	——	——
TOTAL	1,085	1,052	912	894	-18	-2

Calendar Year 1979 FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	200	173	126	89	-56	-29
Second	75	75	99	110	+47	+11
Third	487	505	527	562	+15	+7
Fourth	323	299	160	133	-59	-17

* SUPERIOR COURTS CREATED 7/1/82

SUPERIOR COURTS
CHILDREN'S MATTERS
FORMAL DISPOSITIONS

FY 82/83

COURT	PROBATION	INSTITUTIONALIZED	TERMINATION PARENTAL RIGHTS	DISMISSED	OTHER	TOTAL
Anchorage	219	168	6	44	6	443
Barrow	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bethel	24	41	—	26	3	94
Fairbanks	—	39	—	—	—	39
Juneau	4	12	—	9	13	38
Kenai	52	8	—	4	21	85
Ketchikan	6	1	—	—	16	23
Kodiak	3	—	—	—	11	14
Kotzebue	20	14	0	8	—	42
Nome	19	10	0	9	30	68
Palmer	18	—	—	—	2	20
Sitka	4	—	—	8	7	19
Wrangell/ Petersburg	4	—	—	2	3	9
TOTAL	373	293	6	110	112	894

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	18	13	0	19	39	89
Second	39	24	0	17	30	110
Third	292	176	6	48	40	562
Fourth	24	80	0	26	3	133

DISTRICT COURT
(Higher Volume)

Higher Volume District Courts - Caseload 1983

District court statistics are maintained in two components - high and low volume courts. There are 22 higher volume courts (including all district court/magistrate sites located with a superior court). There are 37 magistrates in locations that are identified as lower volume courts.

Total filings in higher volume district courts increased by 10% over FY 1982 levels. Total dispositions increased by 14%.

Almost 70% of all district court case filings are traffic tickets. While these traffic tickets account for the bulk of case filings, they represent a small portion of the actual workload in a district court. It requires far more clerical and judicial resources to process a misdemeanor, small claims or other civil case than it does to process a normal traffic ticket. Non-traffic filings in district courts increased by 14%. Filings of traffic matters (actual traffic ticket dispositions) increased by 14% over FY 1982.

Felony Cases[1]

Felony case filings in higher volume district courts increased by 17% in FY 1983. This is consistent with the 22% increase in felony case filings in the state's superior courts. As was the case in superior courts, over half of all felony filings in higher volume district courts had a primary charge involving either violence or drugs.

Misdemeanor Cases

Misdemeanor case filings increased 6% over FY 1982 levels. Several courts had significant increases in misdemeanor case filings including: Juneau (+11%), Kenai (+42%), Kodiak (+22%), Palmer (+24%), Seward (+29%), Tok (+166%) and Valdez (+10%). These large increases were statistically masked by the fact that Anchorage showed essentially no change in its misdemeanor filings in comparison with FY 1982. Misdemeanor case dispositions increased by 16% over FY 1983.

Traffic-related offenses constitute the largest category of misdemeanor case filings (40%). These offenses include driving while intoxicated (DWI), reckless/negligent driving, driving on a revoked/suspended license, and several accident-related traffic offenses. The bulk of this category consists of driving while intoxicated cases. The traffic category of misdemeanor case filings increased 15% from FY 1982 levels.

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[1] Felony cases are usually filed in the district court where a defendant makes his first appearance, and bail hearings and preliminary hearings may be held. Cases are later transferred to the superior court, which has full jurisdiction over felony cases.

Small Claims Cases

Statewide filings of small claims cases in the higher volume district courts decreased by 9% in FY 1983. This is the first time in many years that small claims filings have decreased. While several of the smaller district court sites reported significant increases in small claims filings, these increases were statistically offset by the significant decreases in the larger district court sites. All of the larger district court sites reported significant decreases in small claims filings except Fairbanks, which reported a 1% increase.

Other Civil Cases

Other civil case filings (civil damages, debts, contracts and notes) showed a 8% decrease in FY 1983. While Juneau, Kenai and Ketchikan reported significant increases in other civil case filings, these increases were statistically offset by decreases in Anchorage and Fairbanks, as well as in other district courts. Dispositions of other civil cases increased by 30% over FY 1982.

Traffic Cases

Because traffic citation cases are not reported to the administrative office until their final disposition, filings for traffic matters generally understate the actual workload. Consequently, wherever filing data is required to assess the overall workload of the district courts, traffic disposition data have been substituted for traffic filing data. This is true for all tables and charts in this report.

All of the larger district court sites except Juneau reported significant increases in traffic dispositions during FY 1983. Juneau's 65% decrease in reported traffic dispositions stems from the city of Juneau's decision to operate a city violations bureau which processes most local ordinance violations.

DISTRICT COURTS
FILINGS

1979 - FY 82/83

COURT	1979	FY80/81*	FY81/82*	FY82/83*	% INCREASE 1979 to FY82/83	% INCREASE FY81/82 to FY82/83
Anchorage	48,259	62,309	58,363	65,272	+35	+12
Barrow	399	302	608	369	-8	-39
Bethel	1,613	1,329	1,259	1,250	-23	-1
Cordova	742	673	697	770	+4	+10
Dillingham	273	819	500	412	+51	-18
Fairbanks	13,971	14,489	18,825	21,668	+55	+15
Glennallen	1,166	1,299	894	700	-40	-22
Homer	2,527	3,378	2,352	2,782	+10	+18
Juneau	14,388	16,602	8,142	5,102	-65	-37
Kenai	5,592	7,778	5,937	7,090	+27	+19
Ketchikan	3,494	3,621	3,166	3,443	-1	+9
Kodiak	2,590	3,982	2,955	3,307	+28	+12
Kotzebue	673	709	795	1,003	+49	+26
Nome	751	940	769	712	-5	-7
Palmer	3,433	6,545	5,473	7,298	+113	+33
Petersburg	504	600	319	545	+8	+71
Seward	1,629	2,690	1,863	2,622	+61	+41
Sitka	1,420	2,086	2,005	2,337	+65	+17
Tok	315	1,147	789	795	+152	+1
Unalaska	317	596	517	470	+48	-9
Valdez	1,292	1,214	997	1,034	-20	+4
Wrangell	794	1,156	728	501	-37	-31
TOTAL	106,142	133,364	117,953	129,482	+22	+10

* Traffic Disposition used as filings

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

Calendar Year 1979 - FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

First	20,600	24,065	14,360	11,928	-43	-17
Second	1,823	1,951	2,172	2,084	+14	-4
Third	67,820	90,383	80,548	91,757	+35	+14
Fourth	15,899	16,965	20,873	23,713	+49	+14

DISTRICT COURTS
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS

FY 82/83

COURT	CRIMINAL				CIVIL		TOTAL
	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR		* TRAFFIC	SMALL CLAIMS	OTHER CIVIL	
Anchorage	829	7,886		48,808	4,918	2,831	65,272
Barrow	12	277		24	43	13	369
Bethel	109	489		490	154	8	1,250
Cordova	34	362		201	83	90	770
Dillingham	16	247		65	57	27	412
Fairbanks	281	4,259		15,892	777	459	21,668
Glennallen	15	176		310	174	25	700
Homer	21	553		1,627	391	190	2,782
Juneau	135	1,830		1,715	1,133	289	5,102
Kenai	77	1,797		4,810	308	98	7,090
Ketchikan	149	1,093		1,762	311	128	3,443
Kodiak	116	1,233		1,765	156	37	3,307
Kotzebue	54	685		219	43	2	1,003
Nome	41	394		203	67	7	712
Palmer	170	1,313		5,170	578	67	7,298
Petersburg	17	207		228	90	3	545
Seward	43	408		1,975	162	34	2,622
Sitka	35	629		1,403	226	44	2,337
Tok	25	186		556	21	7	795
Unalaska	24	226		94	59	67	470
Valdez	31	215		513	172	103	1,034
Wrangell	10	282		162	46	1	501
TOTAL	2,244	24,747		87,992	9,969	4,530	129,482
% OF TOTAL	2%	19%		68%	8%	3%	100%

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

* DISPOSITIONS

First	346	4,041		5,270	1,806	465	11,928
Second	107	1,356		446	153	22	2,084
Third	1,376	14,416		65,338	7,058	3,569	91,757
Fourth	415	4,934		16,938	952	474	23,713

DISTRICT COURTS
DISPOSITIONS

1979 - FY82/83

COURT	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	FY 82/83	% INCREASE	
					1979 to FY 82/83	FY81/82 to FY82/83
Anchorage	48,508	62,675	54,062	64,434	+33	+19
Barrow	340	229	564	387	+14	-31
Bethel	1,629	1,186	1,145	1,302	-20	+14
Cordova	706	663	643	646	-8	——
Dillingham	237	726	442	460	+94	+4
Fairbanks	13,670	13,667	18,198	21,734	+59	+19
Glennallen	1,141	1,275	803	739	-35	-8
Homer	2,426	3,380	2,150	2,659	+10	+24
Juneau	14,155	15,840	7,971	4,522	-68	-43
Kenai	5,502	7,449	5,604	6,894	+25	+23
Ketchikan	3,524	3,484	3,071	3,179	-10	+4
Kodiak	2,651	2,864	2,894	3,120	+18	+8
Kotzebue	560	624	705	1,055	+88	+50
Nome	862	852	811	715	-17	-12
Palmer	3,245	6,085	4,991	7,241	+123	+45
Petersburg	467	571	323	420	-10	+30
Seward	1,643	2,645	1,807	2,592	+58	+43
Sitka	1,434	1,865	1,904	2,377	+66	+25
Tok	306	1,104	802	757	+147	-6
Unalaska	274	451	497	397	+45	-20
Valdez	1,279	1,158	958	947	-26	-1
Wrangell	797	1,088	684	522	-35	-24
TOTAL	105,356	129,881	111,029	127,099	+21	+14

Calendar Year 1979 - FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	20,377	22,848	13,953	11,020	-46	-21
Second	1,762	1,705	2,080	2,157	+22	+4
Third	67,612	89,371	74,851	90,129	+33	+20
Fourth	15,605	15,957	20,145	23,793	+52	+18

DISTRICT COURTS
FILINGS

NON-TRAFFIC
1979 - FY 82/83

COURT	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	FY 82/83	% INCREASE	
					1979 to FY 82/83	FY 81/82 to FY 82/83
Anchorage	15,855	15,247	16,643	16,464	+4	-1
Barrow	389	290	605	345	-11	-43
Bethel	1,423	1,030	1,026	760	-47	-26
Cordova	256	355	448	569	+122	+27
Dillingham	265	699	462	347	+31	-25
Fairbanks	4,339	4,305	5,590	5,776	+33	+3
Glennallen	363	365	420	390	+7	-7
Homer	850	747	973	1,155	+36	+19
Juneau	2,324	2,795	3,280	3,387	+46	+3
Kenai	1,742	1,745	1,831	2,280	+31	+25
Ketchikan	1,332	1,709	1,715	1,681	+26	-2
Kodiak	1,374	1,326	1,400	1,542	+12	+10
Kotzebue	673	665	793	784	+16	-1
Nome	579	623	558	509	-12	-9
Palmer	1,200	2,075	2,388	2,128	+77	-11
Petersburg	290	336	151	317	+9	+110
Seward	194	332	462	647	+234	+40
Sitka	708	1,099	1,028	934	+32	-9
Tok	131	130	96	239	+82	+149
Unalaska	273	475	351	376	+38	+7
Valdez	467	518	428	521	+12	+22
Wrangell	290	381	443	339	+17	-23
TOTAL	35,317	37,247	41,091	41,490	+17	+1

Calendar Year 1979 FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	4,944	6,320	6,617	6,658	+35	+1
Second	1,641	998	1,956	1,638	——	-16
Third	22,839	23,884	25,806	26,419	+16	+2
Fourth	5,893	5,465	6,712	6,775	+15	+1

DISTRICT COURTS
DISPOSITIONS
NON-TRAFFIC
1979 - FY 82/83

COURT	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	FY 82/83	% INCREASE	
					1979 to FY82/83	FY81/82 to FY 82/83
Anchorage	16,104	15,613	12,342	15,626	-3	+27
Barrow	330	217	561	363	+10	-35
Bethel	1,439	887	912	812	-44	-11
Cordova	220	345	394	445	+102	+13
Dillingham	229	606	404	395	+72	-2
Fairbanks	4,038	3,483	4,963	5,842	+45	+18
Glennallen	338	341	329	429	+27	+30
Homer	749	749	771	1,032	+38	+34
Juneau	2,091	2,033	3,109	2,807	+34	-10
Kenai	1,652	1,416	1,498	2,084	+26	+39
Ketchikan	1,362	1,572	1,620	1,417	+4	-13
Kodiak	1,435	1,108	1,339	1,355	-6	+1
Kotzebue	560	580	703	836	+49	+19
Nome	690	535	600	512	-26	-15
Palmer	1,012	1,615	1,906	2,071	+105	+9
Petersburg	253	307	155	192	-24	+24
Seward	208	287	406	617	+197	+52
Sitka	722	878	927	974	+35	+5
Tok	122	87	109	201	+65	+84
Unalaska	230	330	331	303	+32	-8
Valdez	454	462	389	434	-4	+12
Wrangell	293	313	399	360	+23	-10
TOTAL	34,531	33,764	34,167	39,107	+13	+14

Calendar Year 1979 - FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	4,721	5,103	6,210	5,750	+22	-7
Second	1,580	1,332	1,864	1,711	+8	-8
Third	22,631	22,872	20,109	24,791	+10	+23
Fourth	5,599	4,457	5,984	6,855	+22	+15

DISTRICT COURTS
FELONY CASES
FILINGS

1979 - FY 82/83

COURT	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	FY 82/83	% INCREASE	
					1979 to FY82/83	FY81/82 to FY82/83
Anchorage	545	636	634	829	+52	+30
Barrow	19	53	62	12	-37	-81
Bethel	93	155	124	109	+17	-12
Cordova	8	11	34	34	+325	——
Dillingham	33	36	33	16	-52	-52
Fairbanks	166	257	246	281	+69	+14
Glennallen	13	14	12	15	+15	+25
Homer	25	20	17	21	-16	+24
Juneau	67	98	129	135	+101	+5
Kenai	63	58	79	77	+22	-3
Ketchikan	103	106	149	149	+45	——
Kodiak	152	134	99	116	-24	+17
Kotzebue	28	49	31	54	+93	+74
Nome	47	43	17	41	-13	+141
Palmer	87	68	79	170	+95	+115
Petersburg	13	19	10	17	+31	+70
Seward	6	44	27	43	+617	+59
Sitka	40	57	58	35	-12	-40
Tok	16	15	9	25	+56	+178
Unalaska	44	48	24	24	-45	——
Valdez	14	23	11	31	+121	+182
Wrangell	22	12	28	10	-55	-64
TOTAL	1,604	1,956	1,912	2,244	+40	+17

Calendar Year 1979 - FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	245	292	374	346	+41	-7
Second	94	145	110	107	+14	-3
Third	990	1,092	1,049	1,376	+39	+31
Fourth	275	427	379	415	+51	+9

DISTRICT COURTS
COMPOSITION OF FELONY FILINGS
FY 82/83

COURT	VIOLENT	PROPERTY	FRAUD/ FORGERY	DRUGS	OTHER	TOTAL
Anchorage	245	309	59	114	102	829
Barrow	7	4	0	1	0	12
Bethel	65	24	2	16	2	109
Cordova	9	6	1	17	1	34
Dillingham	8	7	0	0	1	16
Fairbanks	94	104	18	35	30	281
Glennallen	6	5	3	0	1	15
Homer	9	8	3	1	0	21
Juneau	55	39	12	21	8	135
Kenai	31	19	2	20	5	77
Ketchikan	44	19	6	64	16	149
Kodiak	34	22	12	43	5	116
Kotzebue	29	14	3	5	3	54
Nome	22	5	1	12	1	41
Palmer	60	49	6	33	22	170
Petersburg	6	5	1	3	2	17
Seward	8	19	3	11	2	43
Sitka	15	10	5	2	3	35
Tok	12	4	0	3	6	25
Unalaska	12	7	0	5	0	24
Valdez	8	2	0	21	0	31
Wrangell	0	4	1	5	0	10
TOTAL	779	685	138	432	210	2,244
% OF TOTAL	35%	31%	6%	19%	9%	100%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	120	77	25	95	29	346
Second	58	23	4	18	4	107
Third	430	453	89	265	139	1,376
Fourth	171	132	20	54	38	415

DISTRICT COURTS
FELONY CASES
DISPOSITIONS

1979 - FY 82/83

COURT	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	FY 82/83	% INCREASE 1979 to FY82/83	% INCREASE FY81/82 to FY82/83
Anchorage	477	418	569	767	+61	+35
Barrow	11	24	57	20	+82	-65
Bethel	77	96	123	110	+43	-11
Cordova	3	9	27	27	+800	——
Dillingham	27	26	32	22	-19	-31
Fairbanks	142	149	211	288	+103	+36
Glennallen	13	13	11	14	+8	+27
Homer	23	16	16	19	-17	+19
Juneau	50	59	117	103	+106	-12
Kenai	55	36	75	73	+33	-3
Ketchikan	78	103	107	130	+67	+21
Kodiak	124	74	96	90	-27	-6
Kotzebue	20	21	22	50	+150	+127
Nome	37	33	16	43	+16	+169
Palmer	64	46	82	103	+61	+26
Petersburg	7	18	11	9	+29	-19
Seward	10	39	21	33	+230	+57
Sitka	29	43	48	32	+10	-33
Tok	14	8	10	22	+57	+120
Unalaska	35	40	29	19	-46	-34
Valdez	13	16	14	27	+108	+93
Wrangell	20	7	22	15	-25	-32
TOTAL	1,329	1,294	1,716	2,016	+52	+17

Calendar Year 1979 - FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	184	230	305	289	+57	-5
Second	68	78	95	113	+66	+19
Third	844	733	972	1,194	+41	+23
Fourth	233	253	344	420	+80	+22

DISTRICT COURTS
MISDEMEANOR CASES
FILINGS
1979 - FY 82/83

COURT	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	FY 82/83	% INCREASE 1979 to FY82/83	 FY81/82 to FY82/83
Anchorage	7,234	7,289	7,847	7,886	+9	——
Barrow	347	214	425	277	-20	-35
Bethel	1,136	701	565	489	-57	-13
Cordova	205	231	297	313	+53	+5
Dillingham	173	445	315	247	+43	-22
Fairbanks	2,577	2,634	4,025	4,259	+65	+6
Glennallen	135	157	163	176	+30	+8
Homer	418	409	533	553	+32	+4
Juneau	1,116	1,349	1,654	1,830	+64	+11
Kenai	1,095	1,149	1,268	1,797	+64	+42
Ketchikan	942	1,357	1,189	1,093	+16	-8
Kodiak	989	902	1,011	1,233	+25	+22
Kotzebue	480	515	640	685	+43	+7
Nome	310	476	443	394	+27	-11
Palmer	497	766	1,059	1,313	+164	+24
Petersburg	224	250	115	207	-8	+80
Seward	124	233	317	408	+229	+29
Sitka	545	757	686	629	+15	-8
Tok	86	87	70	186	+116	+166
Unalaska	229	344	233	226	-1	-3
Valdez	174	194	196	215	+24	+10
Wrangell	194	285	306	282	+45	-8
TOTAL	19,230	20,744	23,357	24,698	+28	+6

Calendar Year 1979 - FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	3,021	3,998	3,950	4,041	+34	+2
Second	1,137	1,205	1,508	1,356	+19	-10
Third	11,273	12,119	13,239	14,367	+27	+9
Fourth	3,799	3,422	4,660	4,934	+30	+6

DISTRICT COURTS
MISDEMEANOR CASES
COMPOSITION OF FY FILINGS
82/83

COURT	VIO-LENCE	THEFT/ FRAUD	EN-VIRON-MEN-TAL	NUI-SANCE	AL-COHOL/ DRUGS	RE-SIST-ING THE LAW	VICE	TRAF-FIC	OTHER	TOTAL
Anchorage	893	1248	107	1081	520	148	280	3503	106	7886
Barrow	85	9	0	45	62	1	0	71	4	277
Bethel	160	32	66	59	65	3	0	97	7	489
Cordova	23	9	130	29	17	1	0	63	41	313
Dillingham	47	9	90	43	7	2	0	43	6	247
Fairbanks	330	536	157	472	543	47	1	1972	211	4259
Glennallen	32	25	32	22	9	1	0	41	14	176
Homer	70	24	147	30	30	3	0	238	11	553
Juneau	204	84	70	289	277	41	0	783	82	1830
Kenai	147	95	450	101	102	49	4	789	60	1797
Ketchikan	148	59	125	191	100	18	0	406	46	1093
Kodiak	112	131	397	202	110	7	0	255	19	1233
Kotzebue	132	26	32	96	171	9	0	122	97	685
Nome	72	71	32	70	83	1	1	52	12	394
Palmer	145	104	185	82	54	16	0	700	27	1313
Petersburg	26	16	59	21	21	3	0	60	1	207
Seward	52	56	38	30	49	7	0	171	5	408
Sitka	80	96	111	41	46	7	0	226	22	629
Tok	45	15	8	11	17	1	0	89	0	186
Unalaska	25	3	90	57	9	1	0	35	6	226
Valdez	31	10	33	18	34	1	0	84	4	215
Wrangell	17	5	88	12	29	5	0	122	4	282
TOTAL	2876	2653	2447	3002	2355	372	286	9922	785	24698
% OF TOTAL	12%	11%	10%	12%	10%	1%	1%	40%	3%	100%

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	475	260	453	554	473	74	0	1597	155	4041
Second	289	106	64	211	316	11	1	245	113	1356
Third	1577	1714	1699	1695	941	236	284	5922	299	14367
Fourth	535	573	231	542	625	51	1	2158	218	4934

DISTRICT COURTS
MISDEMEANOR CASES
DISPOSITIONS
1979 - FY 82/83

COURT	1979	FY 80/81	FY 80/82	FY 82/83	% INCREASE 1979 to FY 82/83	% INCREASE FY 81/82 to FY 82/83
Anchorage	7,973	5,873	7,593	8,518	+7	+12
Barrow	275	170	377	298	+8	-21
Bethel	1,135	629	535	501	-56	-6
Cordova	186	211	272	301	+62	+11
Dillingham	154	407	281	257	+67	-9
Fairbanks	2,365	2,178	3,548	4,289	+81	+21
Glennallen	137	153	123	201	+47	+63
Homer	427	381	417	566	+33	+36
Juneau	1,018	974	1,614	1,676	+65	+4
Kenai	1,002	990	763	1,738	+73	+128
Ketchikan	911	1,230	1,134	1,016	+12	-10
Kodiak	1,008	780	1,052	1,123	+11	+7
Kotzebue	432	475	607	666	+54	+10
Nome	302	431	406	413	+37	+2
Palmer	477	673	852	1,205	+153	+41
Petersburg	190	238	132	158	-17	+20
Seward	131	218	280	419	+220	+50
Sitka	495	624	677	657	+33	-3
Tok	86	61	84	156	+81	+86
Unalaska	190	254	244	170	-11	-30
Valdez	145	181	175	225	+55	+29
Wrangell	180	249	291	291	+62	—
TOTAL	19,219	17,379	21,457	24,844	+29	+16

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BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	2,794	3,315	3,848	3,798	+36	-1
Second	1,009	1,076	1,390	1,377	+36	-1
Third	11,830	10,120	12,052	14,723	+24	+22
Fourth	3,586	2,868	4,167	4,946	+38	+19

DISTRICT COURTS
SMALL CLAIMS CASES
FILINGS
1979 - FY 82/83

COURT	1979	FY80/81	FY81/82	FY82/83	% INCREASE 1979 to FY82/83	% INCREASE FY81/82 to FY82/83
Anchorage	4,851	4,393	5,306	4,918	+1	-7
Barrow	23	18	104	43	+87	-59
Bethel	178	160	321	154	-13	-52
Cordova	18	53	63	83	+361	+32
Dillingham	56	206	72	57	+2	-21
Fairbanks	909	930	767	777	-15	+1
Glennallen	204	181	224	174	-15	-22
Homer	192	160	201	391	+104	+95
Juneau	946	1,071	1,273	1,133	+20	-11
Kenai	503	455	405	308	-39	-24
Ketchikan	213	182	328	311	+46	-5
Kodiak	193	213	240	156	-19	-35
Kotzebue	164	100	119	43	-74	-64
Nome	202	93	81	67	-67	-17
Palmer	423	931	841	578	+37	-31
Petersburg	48	59	19	90	+88	+374
Seward	62	43	80	162	+161	+103
Sitka	98	245	241	226	+131	-6
Tok	28	16	10	21	-25	+110
Unalaska	0	31	34	59	—	+74
Valdez	151	139	118	172	+14	+46
Wrangell	71	70	75	46	-35	-39
TOTAL	9,533	9,749	10,922	9,969	+5	-9

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BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	1,376	1,627	1,936	1,806	+31	-7
Second	389	211	304	153	-61	-50
Third	6,653	6,805	7,584	7,058	+6	-7
Fourth	1,115	1,106	1,098	952	-15	-13

DISTRICT COURTS
SMALL CLAIMS CASES
DISPOSITIONS

1979 - FY 82/83

COURT	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	FY 82/83	% INCREASE	
					1979 to FY82/83	FY81/82 to FY82/83
Anchorage	4,376	6,674	2,392	3,358	-23	+40
Barrow	37	21	117	33	-11	-72
Bethel	145	153	236	194	+34	-18
Cordova	14	76	56	48	+243	-14
Dillingham	47	170	77	74	+57	-4
Fairbanks	739	642	712	768	+4	+8
Glennallen	177	164	179	196	+11	+9
Homer	193	187	177	302	+56	+71
Juneau	820	810	1,141	839	+2	-26
Kenai	410	324	585	212	-48	-64
Ketchikan	228	183	338	181	-21	-46
Kodiak	189	199	148	117	-38	-21
Kotzebue	98	84	74	118	+20	+59
Nome	316	62	168	50	-84	-70
Palmer	294	690	678	709	+141	+5
Petersburg	47	48	11	25	-47	+127
Seward	62	22	73	138	+123	+89
Sitka	96	176	170	234	+144	+38
Tok	15	16	8	16	+7	+100
Unalaska	0	11	25	28	—	+12
Valdez	186	144	114	95	-49	-16
Wrangell	60	46	75	52	-13	-31
TOTAL	8,549	10,902	7,554	7,787	-9	+3

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BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	1,251	1,263	1,735	1,331	+6	-23
Second	451	167	359	201	-55	-44
Third	5,948	8,661	4,504	5,277	-11	+17
Fourth	899	811	956	978	+9	+2

DISTRICT COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
FILINGS

1979 - FY 82/83

COURT	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	FY 82/83	% INCREASE	
					1979 to FY 82/83	FY81/82 to FY82/83
Anchorage	3,225	2,929	2,856	2,831	-12	-1
Barrow	0	5	14	13	—	-7
Bethel	16	14	16	8	-50	-50
Cordova	25	60	54	90	+260	+67
Dillingham	3	12	42	27	+800	-36
Fairbanks	687	484	552	459	-33	-17
Glennallen	11	13	21	25	+127	+19
Homer	215	158	222	190	-12	-14
Juneau	195	277	224	289	+48	+29
Kenai	81	83	79	98	+21	+24
Ketchikan	74	64	49	128	+73	+161
Kodiak	40	77	50	37	-7	-36
Kotzebue	1	1	3	2	+100	-33
Nome	20	11	17	7	-65	-59
*Palmer	193	310	409	67	-65	-84
Petersburg	5	8	7	3	-40	-57
Seward	2	12	38	34	+1600	-11
Sitka	25	40	43	44	+76	+2
Tok	1	12	7	7	+600	—
Unalaska	0	52	60	67	—	+12
Valdez	128	162	103	103	-20	—
*Wrangell	3	14	34	1	-67	-97
TOTAL	4,950	4,798	4,900	4,530	-8	-8

*Became Superior Courts 7/1/82.

Civil Damage, Admin Review, General Civil, S.C. Civil matters not recorded on S.C. Charts.

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

Calendar Year 1979 - FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

First	302	403	357	465	+54	+30
Second	21	17	34	22	+5	-35
Third	3,923	3,868	3,934	3,569	-9	-9
Fourth	704	510	575	474	-33	-18

DISTRICT COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS
FY 82/83

COURT	CIVIL DAMAGE	GENERAL	OTHER	TOTAL
Anchorage	441	1,481	909	2,831
Barrow	6	3	4	13
Bethel	1	4	3	8
Cordova	2	34	54	90
Dillingham	4	1	22	27
Fairbanks	37	253	169	459
Glennallen	1	0	24	25
Homer	30	43	117	190
Juneau	10	250	29	289
Kenai	11	65	22	98
Ketchikan	4	99	25	128
Kodiak	2	24	11	37
Kotzebue	1		1	2
Nome		6	1	7
Palmer	6	37	24	67
Petersburg	—	3	—	3
Seward	1	1	32	34
Sitka	2	26	16	44
Tok	—	—	7	7
Unalaska	1	0	66	67
Valdez	4	11	88	103
Wrangell	—	—	1	1
TOTAL	564	2,341	1,625	4,530
% OF TOTAL	12%	52%	36%	100%

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 _ JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	16	378	71	465
Second	7	9	6	22
Third	503	1,697	1,369	3,569
Fourth	38	257	179	474

DISTRICT COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
DISPOSITIONS
1979 - FY82/83

COURT	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	FY 82/83	% INCREASE 1979 to FY82/83	% INCREASE FY81/82 to FY82/83
Anchorage	2,189	2,649	1,788	2,983	+36	+67
Barrow	0	2	10	12	—	+20
Bethel	11	9	18	7	-36	-61
Cordova	17	49	39	69	+306	+77
Dillingham	1	3	14	42	+4100	+200
Fairbanks	570	514	492	497	-13	+1
Glennallen	9	11	16	18	+100	+13
Homer	103	165	161	145	+41	-10
Juneau	180	190	237	189	+5	-20
Kenai	74	66	75	61	-18	-19
Ketchikan	58	56	41	90	+55	+120
Kodiak	25	55	43	25	—	-42
Kotzebue	2	0	—	2	—	—
Nome	17	9	10	6	-65	-40
* Palmer	124	206	294	54	-56	-82
Petersburg	3	3	1	0	—	—
Seward	4	8	32	27	+575	-16
Sitka	30	35	32	51	+70	+59
Tok	1	2	7	7	+600	—
Unalaska	0	25	33	86	—	+161
Valdez	108	121	86	87	-19	+1
* Wrangell	1	11	11	2	+100	-82
TOTAL	3,527	4,189	3,440	4,460	+26	+30

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* Became Superior Courts July 1, 1982

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	272	295	322	332	+22	+3
Second	19	11	20	20	+5	—
Third	2,654	3,358	2,581	3,597	+36	+39
Fourth	582	525	517	511	-12	-1

DISTRICT COURTS
TRAFFIC CASES
DISPOSITIONS
1979 - FY 82/83

COURT	1979	FY 80/81	FY 81/82	FY 82/83	% INCREASE 1979 to FY82/83	% INCREASE FY 81/82 to FY 82/83
Anchorage	32,404	47,062	41,720	48,808	+51	+17
Barrow	10	12	3	24	+140	+700
Bethel	190	299	233	490	+158	+110
Cordova	486	318	249	201	-59	-19
Dillingham	8	120	38	65	+713	+71
Fairbanks	9,632	10,184	13,235	15,892	+65	+20
Glennallen	803	934	474	310	-61	-35
Homer	1,677	2,631	1,379	1,627	-3	+18
Juneau	12,064	13,807	4,862	*1,715	-86	-65
Kenai	3,850	6,033	4,106	4,810	+25	+17
Ketchikan	2,162	1,912	1,451	1,762	-19	+21
Kodiak	1,216	1,756	1,555	1,765	+45	+14
Kotzebue	0	44	2	219	—	+10,850
Nome	172	317	211	203	+18	-4
Palmer	2,233	4,470	3,085	5,170	+132	+68
Petersburg	214	264	168	228	+7	+36
Seward	1,435	2,358	1,401	1,975	+38	+41
Sitka	712	987	977	1,403	+97	+44
Tok	184	1,017	693	556	+202	-20
Unalaska	44	121	166	94	+114	-43
Valdez	825	696	569	513	-38	-10
Wrangell	504	775	285	162	-68	-43
TOTAL	70,825	96,117	76,862	87,992	+24	+14

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BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

*No longer entering parking tickets

First	15,656	17,745	7,743	5,270	-66	-32
Second	182	373	216	446	+145	+106
Third	44,981	66,499	54,742	65,338	+45	+19
Fourth	10,006	11,500	14,161	16,938	+69	+20

DISTRICT COURTS
TRAFFIC CASES
COMPOSITION OF DISPOSITIONS

FY 82/83

COURT	EQUIP-MENT	SPEED-ING	SIGNS/ CON-TROL DE-VICES	OTHER MOVING	LICENSE RESTRIC-TION	REGIS-TRA-TION/ TITLE	OTHER	TOTAL	*UNKNOWN
Anchorage	2478	10,475	7,077	6115	4002	9169	9492	48808	
Barrow	7	4	2	2	0	1	5	24	3
Bethel	24	67	61	31	17	52	65	490	173
Cordova	13	48	21	6	14	39	4	201	56
Dillingham	2	1	7	3	2	16	5	65	29
Fairbanks	1940	4832	2062	942	1775	1791	2550	15892	—
Glennallen	7	223	3	8	8	9	6	310	46
Homer	339	407	21	43	81	127	140	1627	469
Juneau	56	670	197	148	41	274	81	1715	248
Kenai	349	2078	143	201	331	726	192	4810	790
Ketchikan	49	571	40	108	56	210	65	1762	663
Kodiak	56	432	96	112	154	210	94	1765	611
Kotzebue	2	18	25	2	3	4	6	219	159
Nome	15	13	19	4	7	9	11	203	125
Palmer	254	2535	375	345	239	488	177	5170	757
Petersburg	3	91	10	8	6	11	7	228	92
Seward	97	863	18	83	46	100	80	1975	688
Sitka	64	240	35	55	44	191	36	1403	738
Tok	41	83	5	6	20	68	67	556	266
Unalaska	2	5	2	1	5	6	8	94	65
Valdez	106	143	26	28	16	37	53	513	104
Wrangell	9	77	2	6	6	6	7	162	49
TOTAL	5913	23876	10 247	8257	6873	13544	13151	87992	6131
% OF TOTAL	7%	27%	12%	9%	8%	15%	15%	100%	7%

* Tickets counted manually - unable to enter in computer - required license search

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	181	1649	284	325	153	692	196	5270	1790
Second	24	35	46	8	10	14	22	446	287
Third	3703	17210	7789	6945	4898	10927	10251	65338	3615
Fourth	2005	4982	2128	979	1812	1911	2682	16938	439

DISTRICT COURT
(Lower Volume)

Lower Volume District Courts - Caseload FY 1983

Alaska's lower volume district courts experienced a 8% decrease in case filings in FY 1983. While filings of felony and civil matters decreased by 6% in these courts, filings of misdemeanors and traffic cases increased by 13% and 6% respectively. Case dispositions in all case categories except felonies increased for an overall increase in case dispositions of 13%.

Filings for lower volume courts in all but the first judicial district increased during FY 1983. First district courts reported a 8% decrease in filings while second, third and fourth judicial districts reported 47%, 28% and 5% increases respectively. All judicial districts reported increases in case dispositions with first, second, third and fourth reporting 3%, 109%, 5% and 7% increases respectively.

In the fourth judicial district, Delta Junction reported a significant (+35%) increase in case filings again this year. Delta Junction filings accounted for over half of the filings for lower volume district court sites in the fourth judicial district. While felony filings in Delta Junction decreased by 19%, misdemeanor, traffic and civil filings increased by 63%, 32% and 31% respectively. Case dispositions in Delta Junction increased by 39% over FY 1982 levels.

The increases in the low volume district court caseload were primarily in the non-traffic categories which accounted for approximately 65% of these courts' workload. Non-traffic case filings increased by 9% in these courts during FY 1983.

LOW VOLUME DISTRICT COURTS
FY 82/83 FILINGS

JUDICIAL DISTRICT (INCL. SERVICE AREAS)	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	* TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
First	36	558	199	114	907
Second	7	468	0	0	475
Third	16	386	127	38	567
Fourth	59	569	963	154	1,745
TOTAL	118	1,981	1,289	306	3,694
% OF TOTAL	3%	54%	35%	8%	100%

* Traffic dispositions also used as filings
FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

LOW VOLUME DISTRICT COURTS
FY 82/83 DISPOSITIONS

JUDICIAL DISTRICT (INCL. SERVICE AREAS)	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
First	5	558	199	111	873
Second	8	442	0	0	450
Third	8	334	127	29	498
Fourth	36	487	963	107	1,593
TOTAL	57	1,821	1,289	247	3,414
% OF TOTAL	2%	53%	38%	7%	100%

DISTRICT COURTS
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
FY 82/83 FILINGS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	* TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
Craig	10	182	70	12	274
Hoonah	1	114	0	0	115
Kake	0	5	0	1	6
Haines	22	126	38	27	213
Angoon	1	31	0	2	34
Skagway	2	49	29	65	145
Yakutat	0	51	62	7	120
TOTAL	36	558	199	114	907
% OF TOTAL	4%	62%	22%	12%	100%

* Traffic Dispositions also used as filings
FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
FY82/83 DISPOSITIONS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
Craig	3	225	70	5	303
Hoonah	1	110	0	0	111
Kake	0	0	0	0	0
Haines	1	106	38	23	168
Angoon	0	22	0	2	24
Skagway	0	45	29	75	149
Yakutat	0	50	62	6	118
TOTAL	5	558	199	111	873
% OF TOTAL	1%	64%	22%	13%	100%

DISTRICT COURTS
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT
FY 82/83 FILINGS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	* TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
Buckland	0	0	0	0	0
Gambell	0	0	0	0	0
Kiana	1	41	0	0	42
Pt. Hope	2	14	0	0	16
Noorvick	0	1	0	0	1
Saroonga	0	101	0	0	101
Selawik	0	100	0	0	100
Shungnak	2	27	0	0	29
Unalakleet	2	184	0	0	186
TOTAL	7	468	0	0	475
% OF TOTAL	1%	99%	0	0	100%

* Traffic Dispositions used as filings

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT
FY82/83 DISPOSITIONS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CIVIL	total
Buckland	0	0	0	0	0
Gambell	0	0	0	0	0
Kiana	0	31	0	0	31
Pt. Hope	3	18	0	0	21
Noorvick	0	0	0	0	0
Saroonga	0	81	0	0	81
Selawik	0	72	0	0	72
Shungnak	2	35	0	0	37
Unalakleet	3	205	0	0	208
TOTAL	8	442	0	0	450
% OF TOTAL	2%	98%	0	0	100%

DISTRICT COURTS
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
FY82/83 FILINGS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	* TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
Cold Bay	1	35	46	1	83
Naknek	13	222	7	0	242
Sand Point	0	0	7	0	7
Seldovia	0	68	11	6	85
St. Paul Island	2	51	0	0	53
Whittier	0	10	56	31	97
TOTAL	16	386	127	38	567
% OF TOTAL	3%	68%	22%	7%	100%

* Traffic Dispositions also used as filings

DISTRICT COURTS
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
FY82/83 DISPOSITIONS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
Cold Bay	0	32	46	2	80
Naknek	7	187	7	7	208
Sand Point	0	0	7	0	7
Seldovia	0	61	11	3	75
St. Paul Island	1	50	—	0	51
Whittier	0	4	56	17	77
TOTAL	8	334	127	29	498
% OF TOTAL	2%	67%	25%	6%	100%

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
FY82/83 FILINGS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	* TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
Ft. Yukon	14	44	—	22	80
Galena	19	99	3	22	143
Healy	0	56	284	0	340
Nenana	0	0	95	0	95
Delta Jct	13	150	576	81	820
Tanana	1	21	5	0	27
TOTAL	47	370	963	125	1,505
% OF TOTAL	3%	25%	64%	8%	100%

* Traffic Dispositions also used as filings
FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
FY82/83 DISPOSITIONS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
Ft. Yukon	8	60	—	15	83
Galena	7	76	3	17	103
Healy	2	50	284	5	341
Nenana	0	0	95	0	95
Delta Jct	10	117	576	49	752
Tanana	1	36	5	0	42
TOTAL	28	339	963	86	1,416
% OF TOTAL	2%	24%	68%	6%	100%

BETHEL SERVICE AREA
FY82/83 FILINGS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	* TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
Aniak	7	77	0	18	102
Emmonak	5	58	0	0	63
Hooper Bay	0	23	0	0	23
Quinhagak	0	24	0	0	24
McGrath	0	14	0	11	25
Mekoryuk	0	0	0	0	0
Mt. Village	0	0	0	0	0
St. Marys	0	0	0	0	0
Tununak	0	3	0	0	3
TOTAL	12	199	0	29	240
% OF TOTAL	5%	83%	0	12%	100%

* Traffic Dispositions used as filings

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BETHEL SERVICE AREA
FY82/83 DISPOSITIONS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
Aniak	3	65	0	15	83
Emmonak	5	58	0	0	63
Hooper Bay	0	0	0	0	0
Quinhagak	0	12	0	0	12
McGrath	0	13	0	6	19
Mekoryuk	0	0	0	0	0
Mt. Village	0	0	0	0	0
St. Marys	0	0	0	0	0
Tununak	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	8	148	0	21	177
% OF TOTAL	4%	84%	0	12%	100%